

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1997 • ADAR II 16, 5757 • 17 THU AL-QADAH 1417

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**N. Carolina, Arizona reach Final Four**

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A Palestinian policeman grabs a stonethrower and pushes him away from Rachel's Tomb, where hundreds of Palestinians clashed with IDF troops yesterday. (Reuters)

## More rioting in Hebron, Bethlehem

By JON IMMANUEL, MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and Jerusalem Post Staff

Riots erupted in Bethlehem and Hebron yesterday, though they were smaller in scale than in recent days. Two border policemen and 30 Palestinians were wounded in the riots, the IDF Spokesman said.

In Bethlehem, university students and teenagers threw stones at soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb from across the road for more than two hours, with Palestinian policemen intervening only when stone-throwers came too close to the barriers on the road.

Two firebombs were also thrown. The IDF evacuated worshippers at the tomb and closed the area. Troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the Palestinians.

In Hebron, scores of Palestinians threw rocks and stones at Beit Hadassah. According to Hebron spokesman Noam Arnon, IDF troops in the area did not intervene and waited for the Palestinian Police to disperse the rioters.

Arnon said that the riots continued for two hours, but eventually the Palestinian Police

succeeded in pushing the rioters back.

An IDF spokesman said that troops fired rubber bullets toward the rioters and succeeded in dispersing them, adding that troops coordinated with the Palestinian Police to control the riots, which took place mainly in the casbah and at Kikar Hashoter. Two border policemen who were lightly wounded by stones were treated at the site.

Israeli officials yesterday continued to accuse Palestinian officials, and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in particular, of not doing enough to control terror and violence, even though it is within their ability to do so.

"The war against terror, to which the PA is committed under the Hebron accord and other agreements, has yet to begin," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters yesterday. "We are again demanding that in the areas under its authority and among the population under its control, it is required to act and assure that no terror emanates from there."

A senior security source said that the closure and the high alert will probably remain in effect until at least after Land Day, March 30. Until Arafat publicly tries to calm the atmosphere, he is sending a tacit signal to extremists to go ahead with terror and disturbances, he said.

"Arafat also controls the height of the flames and their intensity, in contrast to what the General Security Service thought in the past," the source said. "In the past, we believed that Arafat could only decide whether to ignite the flame or not, but now it's clear that everything is being done in an orderly fashion and under complete control."

The source added that the GSS had recently arrested dozens of Hamas activists, most of them residents of villages in Area B. Apparently the questioning of some of them has shed light on Friday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. The source added there is no evidence that Hamas leader Ibrahim Makadmeh had in fact been arrested in Gaza.

Mohammed Dahlan, Preventive Security chief in Gaza, told reporters at a news conference yesterday that "the role of the Palestinian Authority is not to protect the security of the Israeli people but to serve the interests of the Palestinian people, and to protect their political agreement."

He said that despite Israeli policies, "we are totally committed to the peace process"

Continued on Page 2

## Albright expected only after PM, Arafat meet

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is expected to visit the Middle East in the near future, following a proposed meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross will arrive next week to prepare for the visit, a source in Jerusalem confirmed yesterday.

An official from the Israeli Embassy in Washington also said a Ross trip is in the works.

However, a Clinton administration official said there is "absolutely nothing definite" about either an Albright or Ross trip. He added that "as always, we view trips as

what they will do, [and ask] are they necessary," but would not go further on the matter.

Meanwhile, President Ezer Weizman, who in recent weeks has resumed an active role in behind-the-scenes contacts to get the peace process back on track, had intensive contacts on the subject yesterday. Weizman, apparently intent on containing the deterioration in relations with the Palestinians, is trying to broker a Netanyahu-Arafat meeting. Arafat envoy Yasser Abed-Rabbo said last night, on Channel 1, that he is in regular touch with Weizman.

At midday, Weizman met with US Ambassador Martin Indyk to review the diplomatic situation. Indyk reportedly stressed that Albright would not visit until a Netanyahu-Arafat meeting had

been held. Weizman was later in touch with Netanyahu who, a source said, is "leaning toward" meeting with Arafat.

Earlier in the day, Weizman had agreed to meet Abed-Rabbo. The Palestinians have turned to Weizman several times in the past few months to request his intervention with Netanyahu, whom they reportedly perceive as "intransigent." After the idea of the meeting was touted, Abed-Rabbo returned to his office to report to Arafat, who is in Sri Lanka, the source said. He will fly to Paris today to brief him.

Palestinian sources said later that the fact they had requested the meeting was a sign they were interested in continuing the

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84-year-old obtains driver's license - on 35th try!

"Never give up," is Shula Dozhin's motto. And yesterday, the 84-year-old Ashdod woman reaped the reward of her perseverance, passing her driving test after failing it 34 times.

Today she is to become the oldest person ever issued a new driver's license here.

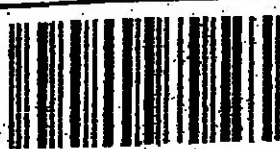
"I knew that if I didn't give up and continued to try, I would get the driver's license in the end - and you see, my dream came

true," said Dozhin.

She first started driving lessons at age 51, when she lived in Jaffa, but after failing a few tests she dropped the whole matter for a time. Then, when she moved to Ashdod, she resumed taking driving lessons, determined to be able to drive back to Jaffa to visit her ailing parents.

"They're dead now," Dozhin noted, "but I will be able to drive with my grandchildren."

She took lessons at several different-driving schools in Tel Aviv and Ashdod. Then, two years ago, she began taking lessons with David Assayag. There were per-



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## NEWS

in brief

## 4 killed, 3 injured in road accidents

Four people were killed, including two children, in accidents yesterday and late Sunday night.

In Shfaram, two-year-old Tahmar Naidar was hit by a van and killed. In Kafr Tui, northwest of Nazareth, four-year-old Khadar Bin Khaled Abu Ras was hit by a truck and killed.

Gilad Botsar, 18, of Ra'anana, was killed late Sunday night when his friend, who had gotten his driver's license two weeks ago, lost control of the car he was driving and it overturned 100 meters from the Gilot junction. The driver and two other passengers were lightly injured.

An 81-year-old woman was fatally injured when she was hit by a car as she crossed the street in Ramle on Sunday night. She died early yesterday of her injuries. *Itim*

## Human rights chief blasts AIDS charge

Miroslav Somol of the Czech Republic, chairman of the 53rd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, has accepted a letter from Ambassador Yosef Lardan condemning the Palestinian observer's charge that Israel deliberately infected 300 Palestinian children with AIDS, as an official commission document. His letter of reply, which said that "declarations provoking racist or discriminatory sentiments must not be tolerated," has also been made an official commission document. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Hizbullah leader praises Tel Aviv attack

A senior Hizbullah official praised the Tel Aviv suicide bomb attack and called for Palestinians to rise up against "the Zionist oppressors."

Mohammed Raad, also a member of the Lebanese parliament, was quoted in the Lebanese press yesterday as saying that the suicide attack was "heroic."

"We hope that the martyrdom operation by our heroic brothers of Hamas against the Zionist settlers in Tel Aviv will only be the start of the uprising by the Palestinian people against the latest Zionist measures to Judaize Jerusalem," he said.

Meanwhile, Abu Amad Amar, head of foreign relations for the Islamic Jihad, called for "an intifada by the whole Arab and Moslem world against Israel and all governments that support the Zionists." *David Rudge*

## Labor: Gov't, PA should cooperate against terror

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Knesset faction yesterday called on the government and the Palestinian Authority to cooperate in the fight against terror, continue the peace process, and carry out the redeployment.

It warned against the demise of the peace process, "which is the aim of the rejectionist organizations."

The faction was convened in emergency session in Tel Aviv by party chairman Shimon Peres. The aim was to take up the defense cabinet's decisions following last Friday's bombing in Tel Aviv.

However, the agenda was quickly abandoned in favor of a heated quarrel over a national unity government. Some MKs suggested that Labor set up a mass protest movement to bring down the Netanyahu government. Others spoke against "crawling" into the Netanyahu coalition.

Peres countered his critics by saying that "had I been faced with a choice between bringing this government down and a national unity coalition, I would without a doubt have opted for the former. However, we must be realistic and understand that the new system of direct elections makes it all but impossible to bring this government down."

Peres also cautioned his colleagues about "talk of taking to the streets. We are not that sort of party, and we cannot imitate or match the Likud on that score. We are not a party of slick slogans. We have another political culture."

Uppermost on the Labor MKs' minds was the revival of a proposal



Shimon Peres

that Peres be appointed party president after he is replaced as Labor chairman. Though conceived of as a largely honorary position tailor-made for Peres, the idea worries supporters of MK Ehud Barak, who is seen as his most likely replacement.

Peres did not comment, but others did. MK Moshe Shahal said that "Peres does not need to enhance his standing with this tide. His personality is more powerful than any honor conferred upon him."

But MK Ori Orr said that "what is more significant than the proposal is who is proposing it and why. My feeling is that more than it comes to massage Peres's ego, it comes to put obstacles in the path of some of the contenders for party leadership."

One of those contenders, MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, proposed that the matter not be taken up until after a new leader has been elected.

MK Sofia Landver, a Peres loyalist, said that "he is more deserving of being elected state president, rather than party president."

## Shas, NRP rabbis shower Netanyahu with Purim blessings

By SARAH HONIG

It was Purim in Jerusalem yesterday, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spent much of it meeting with Shas and National Religious Party spiritual leaders.

First on Netanyahu's rabbinical schedule was Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. Netanyahu visited him with his bureau chief, Moshe Leon, and Yosef invited Shas leader Aryeh Deri.

Netanyahu reported on the situation after last week's Tel Aviv bombing and on the warnings of more possible terrorist attacks.

He expressed disappointment with the Palestinian Authority's "passivity in the fight against terror."

Shas sources said Yosef spoke briefly about the virtues of national unity, but no more. Netanyahu said later the visit was a holiday courtesy call "and we did not discuss a cabinet reshuffle or broadening the coalition," but how to further the national consensus to proceed directly to the final-status talks and to combat terror.

Yosef presented Netanyahu with a copy of his latest book, *Meor Yisrael* (The Light of Israel). Yosef inscribed the book with the

words: "To my friend in soul, may he rule with a mighty hand and may all his enemies perish."

Netanyahu later received more blessings from leading kabbalist Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie, who is also affiliated with Shas. The elderly Kadourie called on Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's Office. Supported by two aides, he came in bringing a silver ornament and two parchment scrolls with blessings inscribed in the rabbi's own hand.

Kadourie then added more blessings on the spot, asking "the Almighty to keep and

protect the prime minister, may he live long and offer true and right leadership, defeat all his enemies and win the next elections."

Kadourie expressed confidence that Netanyahu would be reelected and he urged him to build at Har Homa.

Netanyahu got similar advice from former Ashkenazi chief rabbi Avraham Shapira. One of the NRP's leading ideologues, Shapira had recently been highly critical of Netanyahu's concessions to the PA and the visit with him is seen as an attempt by Netanyahu to patch up relations with the party.

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

## Jerusalem tries to put on a happy face for Purim

By HERB KEINON

A tense Jerusalem tried to put on a joyous Purim mask yesterday, but with only partial success. Downtown streets, which on an ordinary Purim are full of revelers and kids in costume, were uncharacteristically quiet.

"There are generally many more people out on Purim," said Benny Cohen, looking out at the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall from his candy store. "This year it is very quiet."

The headlines screaming from the tabloids gave the reason. One of them read: "The head of military intelligence predicts more attacks likely." The front page of the other featured a picture of Dr. Michael Winter, whose wife Anat was killed in the Tel Aviv bombing, holding his six-month-old baby Shani, who was injured in the blast.

"People this year just preferred to stay home," Cohen said. "They see pictures of the injured baby, and prefer not to take chances."

The fickle weather — one minute sunny, the next drizzly — also probably had something to do with the lack of pedestrian traffic. But not only. "Nobody is in the mood," Cohen said. "Who feels like rejoicing?"

Large, colorful signs were plastered on bulletin boards advertising a day of festivities, including clowns, bands, dolls, and balloons, scheduled for three Jerusalem locations. The festivities were to take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. But by 2, everything was quiet at one of the locations, the plaza in front of the Gerard Behar Center. Everyone

had left about 30 minutes earlier.

There were two categories of people who showed an increased presence on the streets: Habad hassidim, handing out shots of vodka to passersby — especially those willing to put on tefillin — and security personnel. The past two Purims, each preceded by terror attacks and the fear of others, have given birth to an increasingly popular Purim activity: handing out *mishloach manot* (plates of food) to members of the larger-than-usual security presence on the city's streets.

Last year it was soldiers who were guarding bus stops; this year, border policemen were standing guard, in greater numbers than usual, at key locations downtown.

Not everyone was scared away. Daniel Luria took his two young children and went up and down the pedestrian mall passing out *mishloach manot*, and giving charity to beggars.

"My wife didn't want me to go out to a public area with the kids," Luria said. "But I think it is particularly important to go out today. There is a physical threat every day, but we can't let the terrorists dictate when we can celebrate. I'm teaching my kids values, the value of giving charity, and living freely, not hiding."

Luria said he was surprised by two things: that there were relatively few people on the streets, and that he couldn't find many beggars.

"Every day when I walk here, the beggars are everywhere," Luria said. "Today I can't find them. Maybe they were afraid and stayed home."



Border policemen keep an eye on a Purim celebration in Jerusalem yesterday.

(Brian Henders)

## Sharon: Illegal weapons proliferating in Gaza

By LIAT COLLINS

There are apparently a number of RPGs, LAW anti-tank rockets, and possibly Katyusha rockets in Gaza, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday.

Sharon, who is demanding an end to the negotiations with the Palestinians, told reporters yesterday that Yasser Arafat is not interested in peace with Israel.

Sharon said the Palestinians are trying to obtain shoulder-held

anti-aircraft missiles. He said that those who want to continue the diplomatic process with Arafat, like Foreign Minister David Levy, should at least demand he stops violating the Oslo Accords and hand over weapons he is not meant to have.

One of the violations Sharon cited was the smuggling of weapons into the territories in vehicles carrying Palestinian VIPs. These vehicles are not checked at roadblocks. "Everyone knows that they and Arafat smuggle arms in their vehicles," Sharon said.

He said Arafat "definitely feels that even if he doesn't act against the infrastructure of terror organizations he will achieve his goal. And that goal has never changed. His goal is to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Sharon said Arafat's feeling was bolstered by the stand of the Arab world, Europe and even the US. He said the riots in Hebron were organized by the Palestinian

Authority and that Hamas operates in Gaza under the PA's auspices.

"It should be noted that even in the past, the PA did not eradicate the infrastructure of terror groups but always left them as an option in case it needs to press Israel for further concessions. And that's what's happening now."

He objected to the idea that Israel should maintain a business-as-usual approach to the PA, following Friday's terror attack. "We cannot accept a situation in which women are murdered and

children wounded and everything continues. The Palestinians need to know that they will pay a heavy price." He refused to state what operative steps he believes should be taken against the PA, saying it was a matter he had raised in the cabinet.

Sharon said the Oslo Accords "have to a large extent crippled our excellent security services and we cannot rely on the Palestinian security services whose aid is conditioned on further Israeli concessions."

## RIOTS

Continued from Page 1

until Israel announces that it has ripped up the documents."

Near the El Arouh refugee camp, IDF soldiers fired tear gas at rioters after a Palestinian tried to attack a soldier.

Near Rafah, soldiers shot and moderately wounded Eyman Kishita, 28, a donkey driver, who tried to drive his cart through a checkpoint into Israeli-controlled Gush Katif. The IDF said he did not obey orders to stop. A joint IDF-Palestinian Police committee is investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, a handful of settlers prevented work continuing on the road leading to Tel Rumeida yesterday morning, claiming the work is in violation of the Hebron agreement.

"The Palestinians are not allowed to dig up the entire road leading to Tel Rumeida," said

Amnon. The settlers protested to soldiers in the area and half an hour later the roadwork was stopped, he said.

"They must inform us of any intentions they have regarding work there," said Lerner, adding that due to the current tensions work would stop on the road leading to Tel Rumeida, but would continue elsewhere in Hebron.

The joint Israeli, US, and Palestinian project that started some weeks ago includes work on Shuhada Street and work on the road leading to Tel Rumeida. Because of plans to lay sewage pipes, electricity, and Bezeq cables, Tel Rumeida residents are forced to use a road running through H1 (the area under Palestinian control) to reach their enclave.

The settlers were promised that part of the Israeli-controlled road would remain open during parts of the day.

*Itim contributed to this report.*

## Heads of confrontation line settlements protest proposed budget cuts

By DAVID RUDGE

Heads of confrontation line communities in the North are threatening to stage a campaign to protest against proposed budget cuts, which they claim will deal a bitter blow to the region and its residents.

The "front-line" mayors and council heads are angry over what they see as a change in the govern-

ment's priorities, with more funding being channelled to settlements in the territories at the expense of towns and villages near the border with Lebanon.

The forum of heads of confrontation line settlements yesterday sent Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai a letter urging him to intervene and stop the proposed cutbacks.

This follows a meeting of the forum in Nahariya on Sunday, during which participants criticized the government for failing to honor pledges to give additional assistance to northern towns and villages, and planning cuts instead.

The additional aid originally was promised by the previous government in the wake of the wave of Katyusha rocket attacks on the North during Operation Grapes of Wrath. The planned aid package was endorsed by the present government, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who publicly pledged to ensure that the region would receive special assistance.

Forum chairman Shlomo Bouhbut, mayor of Ma'alot-Tarshiha, said the forum had learned that the government intended to cut a total of NIS 150 million from education, welfare,

interior, housing and other ministry budgets earmarked for communities in the region.

"We have called for an urgent meeting with the defense minister to discuss these cutbacks and we are also investigating the possibility of petitioning the High Court of Justice to try and stop them [from] being implemented," he said.

"If these measures don't succeed, we intend to carry out a series of protest actions from next week, beginning with switching off the street and public lighting in all the towns and villages in the North."

"In the second phase, we will erect a protest tent at one of the main road junctions in the North, rather than in Jerusalem where nobody takes any notice of them any more, as well as other measures."

Bouhbut noted that under the proposed cutbacks, first-time home buyers would no longer be entitled to sizable grants as part of their mortgages.

He stressed that the government has a sovereign and moral obligation to "give our residents all the assistance needed to encourage them to live here and help develop the region, because ultimately they are the guardians of the North."

With deep sorry we mourn the passing of

GLORIA DOLINSKY

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# Hanegbi questioned again

**BAR-ON**

By PAMEL MARCUS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was questioned for the fifth time yesterday for more than 12 hours about the Bar-On affair. Hanegbi was questioned under caution.

While police said last week that the inquiry, which has lasted for over two months, has been completed, Hanegbi was summoned for final clarifications regarding his reports to the Knesset over Roni Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general. Sources said that since Hanegbi insisted on writing out the protocol of his investigation, the probe is taking longer.

He has also been asked about allegations that he embellished Bar-On's resume to judges to make him appear a more suitable candidate.

Hanegbi has also been asked again whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or others from the Prime Minister's Office were aware of any "wheeling and dealing" regarding the appointment.

The head of the Israel Bar Association, Dror Huter-Yishai, was also summoned to give evidence in the case yesterday. He has continually insisted that police are trying to frame him. He has been questioned over allegations that he tried to ensure the promotion of certain judges, according to sources.

Meanwhile, police are consolidating the evidence gathered with State Attorney Edna Arbel, who will decide whether to issue indictments. A separate team of Justice Ministry police investigation division personnel is also investigating who leaked the cabinet protocol to the press.

Over 35 people have been questioned by the main police team. Others may still be summoned for questioning to complete the probe.



Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (left) heads to his Tel Aviv office yesterday, where he was questioned for a fifth time in the Bar-On affair. (Dana Serfaty/Israel Sun)

## Nudelman: Ramat Hovav dangerous

By LIAT COLLINS

The Ramat Hovav toxic waste site near Beersheba poses a threat to public health, said MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'Aliya) after a tour of the site yesterday.

Nudelman, an environmental economist by profession, is slated to replace Dalia Itzik (Labor) as chairman of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee in the second half of the Knesset.

"Ramat Hovav is a danger to the public although its maintenance is reasonable, and there is almost no leakage, or emissions which can reach groundwater," Nudelman said. In his opinion the core of the problem is in the evaporation ponds for toxic liquids at the industrial complex, not the waste disposal site. The waste site and industrial park for factories using hazardous materials are run alongside each other in the same area.

"There is a real threat to public health from the ponds," he said, adding that he believes these are the source of the high rate of sickness and the bad smell of which nearby residents complain.

Nudelman said officials at the site told him they are interested in

closing the old evaporation ponds, but it would cost some NIS 30 million and no funds have been found.

Nudelman also criticized the fact that an air pollution monitoring station in the industrial complex is not yet operational.

In a related development, the Environment Ministry noted 74 deviations from the accepted standard of nitrogen oxide emissions in the Tel Aviv area in January and February. The pollution comes mainly from vehicle exhaust.

Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen said the Tel Aviv Municipality is violating agreements it made with the ministry by obstructing the stationing of air pollution monitoring units in the city. The municipality says it is considering the architectural design for the units.

The air pollution monitoring equipment is ready for use and is being stored.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy has said that apart from the environmental hazards posed by the Hiriya garbage dump on the outskirts of south Tel Aviv, the landfill poses a threat to aviation because of the huge number of birds which swarm above it.

## Civil Service seeks to limit ministerial advisers

By JUDY SIEGEL

Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander is to ask the government to set a firm limit on how many advisers ministers and deputy ministers may appoint and to set sanctions for those who exceed this limit.

Hollander plans to recommend that the government put teeth in the regulations set by his predecessor, which are being violated because of loopholes and the lack of punishment for violators.

Hollander's decision resulted from his consideration of a report

in *The Jerusalem Post* last month revealing that Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri had hired five personal advisers, and the commission had been told about only two.

Existing regulations allow deputy ministers to have only one personal adviser, plus a maximum of one additional adviser if there is an empty job slot available.

Benizri's other three advisers were hired at the expense of a budget line for "temporary workers," the Health Ministry said. At least one veteran employee was forced to vacate his office to make

room for them.

Civil Service Commission spokesman Arye Greenblatt conceded that ministers and deputy ministers have apparently violated the rules limiting the number of political advisers many times in the past, by taking advantage of loopholes.

"We now know they're fooling us, but we haven't the ability to go into all the ministries and investigate who is working and in what job slot. We decided to try to bring an end to it by having the subject brought into the open, with clear and strict guidelines," he said.

## Woman with blood disease gives birth to healthy baby

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 30-year-old woman suffering from aplastic anemia, a blood defect in which the blood marrow's production of red and white blood cells and thrombocytes seriously declines, has given birth to a healthy baby girl. Such a case is extremely rare, according to doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem.

The woman, whose blood disease was diagnosed in the early stages of a pregnancy achieved by in vitro fertilization, lives in the center of the country. She was referred to Hadassah's hematology department after her anemia was discovered. Her physicians considered a bone-marrow transplant, but when a suitable donor was not available, they

thought they would have to abort the fetus in the hope that her bone marrow production would recover.

The medical staff consulted with several experts in a variety of fields, who assented to the family's request to continue the "precious" pregnancy while giving her transfusions of blood components. She received transfusions weekly from a single donor; blood components were concentrated, while the rest of the blood was returned to the donor.

Efforts were made to prevent hemorrhaging. On March 13, she gave birth to a healthy baby in a normal birth without complications. The doctors hope that the failure of the bone marrow's production of vital cells was connected to the pregnancy, and that it will return to normal.

## Adoption agency turns to High Court for recognition

By ESTHER HECHT

Aleah, an Israel-based, nonprofit adoption agency, has asked the High Court of Justice to order the Justice and Social Affairs ministries to recognize it in accordance with a new law governing intercountry adoptions.

The law, which provides for the licensing of professional, nonprofit agencies to handle such adoptions, was to have come into effect more than three weeks ago. The agencies must be recognized by the two ministries to be licensed. However, the law cannot be implemented because the Justice and Social Affairs ministries have not finished formulating the necessary regulations.

Aleah - established by Na'amati, the working women's organization - also asked the court to order the ministries to produce the regulations as quickly as possible. Moreover, it asked the court to

order the ministries to recognize the agency's agreement with Romania regarding intercountry adoptions.

According to Dan Shalem, one of the attorneys representing the agency, the petition also asks that if the ministries do not recognize Aleah and do not provide the necessary regulations, that they take upon themselves the handling of the proceedings of the 25 intercountry adoptions that Aleah began and are at an advanced stage.

In May 1996 Aleah began its cooperation with the Romanian Adoption Committee and on June 2, 1996, presented its request for recognition to the ministries. On March 7, 1997, Ofra Friedman, who is chairman both of Na'amati and Aleah, wrote to the ministries again seeking their recognition.

According to the last letter, the agency already has 300 listings of prospective adoptive parents.

## Information technology convention opens today

By JUDY SIEGEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will this morning open the 31st annual convention of the Israel Association for Information Technology at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. The three-day event will be accompanied by a large computer software and hardware exhibition called Israttech '97, which will be visited tomorrow by 3,000 high school pupils.

The conference, chaired by MK Michael Eitan, will deal with the gamut of information technology, including regulation of telecommunications, smart cards and electronic wallets, Internet and intranet,

public databases and virtual reality. The guest speaker at the opening will be Dr. Jeffrey Jaffe, IBM's vice president for technology.

Awards will be presented to Yehoshua Maor of IBM-Israel and Katriel Zimet, who established El Al's computer unit, for his contribution to Israeli society in the field of computerization. Numerous ministers and MKs will attend the convention, which is regarded as the premier annual event in the field of computers here.

The exhibition at the convention center will be open today from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 8 a.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



MK Michael Eitan will be chairing the conference.

## NEWS

in brief

### Accused murderer captured after escape

Nissim Sarfati was recaptured yesterday evening, hours after he escaped from the Ramle Magistrate's Court, where he was being tried yesterday. Police found Sarfati, who is accused of murder and has been remanded until the end of legal proceedings, near his parent's home in Lod. Sarfati asked to use the bathroom and, on the way there, pulled a knife on the guard escorting him and escaped. Police are investigating the incident. *litm*

### Clalit strike off

The strike of 8000 maintenance and administrative personnel in all Kupat Holim Clalit hospitals and community clinics, which was scheduled for today, has been cancelled. Management, the union, and Treasury officials reached an agreement about the workers' demands for higher pay scales. All Clalit hospitals and clinics will function normally. *Judy Siegel*

### Tel Aviv man denies molesting woman

Leonid Greenberg, 67, of Tel Aviv, yesterday denied charges that he molested an 18-year-old woman who came to him to obtain legal advice. Greenberg said that though he is a licensed lawyer in the Ukraine, he does not practice here.

According to the charge sheet presented in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday, in a meeting with the woman in January 1996, Greenberg asked her sexual questions and then kissed and fondled her against her will. *litm*

### Ministry agrees to limit health data access

The Health Ministry has agreed to the Council for the Protection of Privacy's demand that the health funds refrain from providing private pharmacies with access to data bases listing medications used by patients. At a meeting with council head Haim Klugman, representatives of the health funds said it is necessary to have a central data base of patients' medication to check whether they are entitled to the medicines and whether there are contraindications for any medicines being provided. However, they agreed that patients would have the right to limit access to the data base. *Batsheva Tsur*

### 2 sentenced for conspiring to torch synagogue

Two Jaffa men, convicted of conspiring to burn down a synagogue and the town's Keter Plastics factory, were sentenced to jail terms by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. Yousef Jiadi, 21, was sentenced to two years in prison and 18 months' probation. Ahmed Abu-Kaoud was sentenced to a year in prison and nine months' probation. Their plot to burn down the buildings, which they claim are built on sites where mosques previously stood, was uncovered when the 10 Molotov cocktails Jiadi had prepared were discovered. *litm*

### Police searching for missing parrot

Two talking parrots, worth a total of NIS 8,000, were stolen recently from the zoo at Kibbutz Hahotrim, south of Haifa. The theft was discovered Sunday night, when one of the parrots was found wandering around the kibbutz, having apparently escaped from the thief. Police are trying to locate the second bird. Police suspect the thief was known to the watchdogs that guard the kibbutz zoo, since the dogs do not allow strangers access to the area. *litm*

### Art dealer: Bring Chagall's house to Israel

Art dealer Itamar Barkai said yesterday that he is seeking permission from authorities in Belarus to dismantle the house where artist Marc Chagall was born and rebuild it in Jerusalem. "I hope that the municipality of Vitebsk will allow us to take the house," Barkai said. He added that he hopes the Jerusalem Municipality will allocate a plot of land for the house, which could then be used as a museum for Chagall's paintings. *AP*

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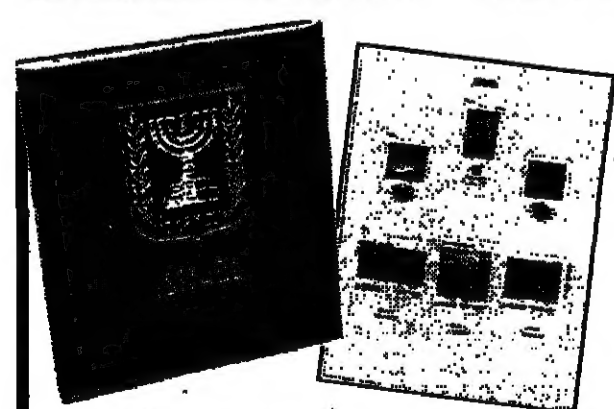
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# EU celebrates 40 years of peace

By JEFFREY ULBRICH

ROME (AP) — The European Union celebrates its 40th birthday today, setting aside irritating squabbles to applaud success in bringing peace and prosperity to a widely divergent group of nations.

Even as the 15 member-countries haggle over reforming their charter, they can admire all that has been accomplished since the union — then called the European Economic Community — was founded as an outgrowth of the old European Coal and Steel Community.

The Treaty of Rome was signed by France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg on March 25, 1957.

Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined in 1973. Greece was accepted in 1981, followed by Spain and Portugal in 1986, and Austria, Sweden and Finland in 1995.

"Europe has never known such a long period of peace, and cooperation has gone far beyond the hopes of the fathers of the European Coal and Steel Community," said Jacques Santer, president of the EU executive commission.

"After years of war in Europe, we finally have peace, thanks to cooperation," echoed Jacques Delors of France, commission president from 1985 to 1992. "We developed mutual understanding among people and it is an example that today can be reproduced elsewhere."

Foreign ministers from EU countries will meet here today to celebrate success, but public focus is often on the disagreements, on the inability to reach common decisions quickly on major issues.

But often lost in the dust of the day-to-day struggle are the accomplishments, taking a devastated postwar western Europe

and turning it into an economic powerhouse.

Delors said the objectives of the European Union have always been peace, economic survival and political influence. While clear improvement has been made on peace and the economy, political influence still eludes the EU's grasp.

"Foreign policy can be compared to a magnificent car, very efficient, very shiny, but with the motor of a lawn mower," Delors said.

The EU's inability to wield political clout commensurate with its economic importance stems from self-imposed rules that require unanimous decisions on many issues, including foreign policy.

Major powers like France and Britain, long used to exercising influence in the world, are reluctant to surrender their individual voices in the interest of many.

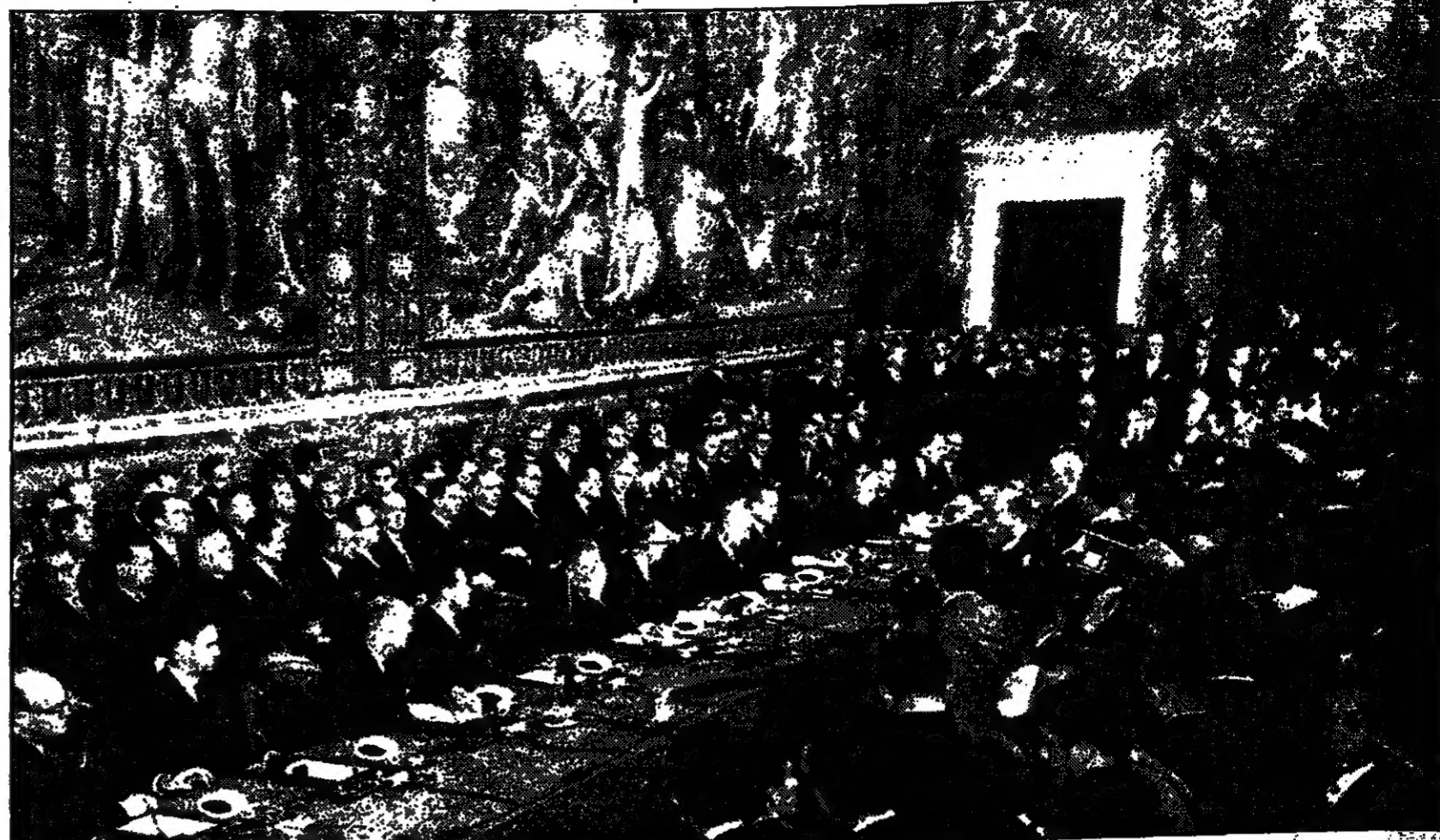
"For the big states of Europe, nostalgia is what it always was," said Delors, "and they have not understood that today there is only strength through union."

If joint decision-making is difficult now with 15 members, it will be virtually impossible when the Union expands to 25 or more over the next 4-5 years.

Today's celebrations will be preceded by a special foreign ministers' meeting to discuss reform of the EU treaty. The new document is supposed to be adopted at a mid-June EU summit in Amsterdam.

"If you want to preserve the union, you have to have change," said Sylvio Flapiolo, the Italian envoy to the EU.

The key to that change, he said, is giving up more national power to a supranational organization or allowing some nations to advance at a faster pace than the rest, two of the toughest issues for the group.



A file photo showing an overhead view of Rome's ancient city hall as the treaties establishing the European Common Market are signed by representatives of France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. The European Union celebrates its 40th birthday today.

## Man honors sister after tracing Nazi camp death

By ROBIN ESTRIN

BOSTON (AP) — Bella Rozental Grajman was killed 53 years ago in a Nazi camp. Now, she finally has received the funeral service she never had.

Stephen Ross never knew his sister's fate. He assumed she perished in a camp with the rest of his family: mother, father and five other siblings.

But he wanted to know for sure and turned to a tracing service run by the American Red Cross for help. After sifting through the documents kept in Arolsen, Germany, they found the truth: Bella Grajman — wife, sister, daughter and mother of two girls — died in December 1943 in a Nazi camp in Budzin, Poland, although Ross doesn't know precisely how she died. She was 35.

"Each time you find out another chapter to dark history, it's even more painful," Ross said at the service he held Sunday near the New England Holocaust Memorial. His wife, two children and friends were by his side. Rabbi Mark Sokol read two poems written by children imprisoned by the Nazis and recited Kaddish.

Ross, 65, who changed his name from Rozental, never got the chance to know Bella very well. She was nearly 25 years older than he. But he has fond memories of the pretty, energetic woman who loved to act in local plays.

The Red Cross launched the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing and Information Program in 1990 after the Soviet Union released thousands of pages of Nazi "death books" and other original German documents.

It was the largest source of information available since the end of World War II and it enabled the Red Cross to establish its tracing center.

Since its inception, the program has confirmed 1,065 deaths and 2,428 camp internments, said Renita Hosler, spokeswoman for the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay, adding that the free service has also led to 481 survivor reunions.

Ross is still hoping the tracing program will find out what happened to other relatives, including Bella's daughters, Nadja and Lili.

Ross was eight when he said goodbye to his family. After the Rozentals' attempts to flee from Poland to Russia failed, Ross' parents gave him to a farming family for safekeeping until his parents could come back to get him.

They never did. Ross was imprisoned at a death camp less than a year later. The number 148127 is tattooed in faded blue on his left arm.

Over the next six years, he lived in 10 different camps, where he saw atrocities that still give him nightmares: beatings, hangings, sexual molestation and cannibalism.

His sister's memorial service won't heal Ross, he said. But it will help him grieve for the loved ones he lost. "I can come here and say that Bella is living in this memorial," he said.

## Post-Oscar bash: Exclusive extravagance

By CONSTANCE SOMMER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Picture excess — then square it. Imagine food islands piled high with crab legs and three kinds of oyster on the half shell. Envision beautiful people stepping out of limousines, each body dressed in outfits that cost more than a new car.

When the curtain came down on last night's 69th annual Academy Awards, most movie lovers will have gone to bed. But don't think for a second that the entertainment industry got all jessed up just to sit for hours in the glitzy Shrine Auditorium.

Hollywood's movers, shakers, players and aspiring stars head out to parties bigger and more

extravagant than most people can imagine.

Since most studios did not receive nominations this March, there were fewer grand bonanzas for partygoers to split their time between. So much the better — that ups the exclusivity factor of the four major soirees that exist.

And in Hollywood, extravagance is second only to prestige.

Those partygoers who play the evening right dash the night away from one high-profile bash to another, congratulating winners here, mugging for photographers there, until the whole thing becomes a soggy whirl of champagne, paparazzi lightbulbs, and glinting gold statuettes.

"(The celebrities) all want to be seen every place," said Army Archerd, columnist for the industry trade paper *Daily Variety*. "They can get themselves on every channel. It couldn't hurt."

Past experience shows that the invitation to get in the one to *Vanity Fair* magazine's annual party at Morton's, the quintessential Hollywood dining spot, replete with two varieties of potted palms dotting the dining room floor.

"It is body-to-body," Archerd said. "I'm telling you, there's barely room to breathe." Many major stars make appearances and political and literary types from out of town show up as well. Last year found singer Diana Ross dining with Prince Dmitri of Yugoslavia and actor Tim Allen, and artist David Hockney chatting with socialite Beisy Bloomingdale.

Perhaps hoping for "eclat by association," Sony Pictures' *Jerry Maguire*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt* rented Eclipse, an exceed-

ingly pink restaurant, that will have the huge oyster bar.

Not a big fan of shellfish? Never fear — just a few blocks to the north, Miramax Pictures (*The English Patient*, *Sling Blade*) was offering such alternatives as a Russian and domestic caviar station and a penne pasta with a butternut, chantarelle and shitake leek sauce.

The event was being co-hosted by champagne maker Dom Perignon and held at the startlingly hip Mondrian Hotel on the Sunset Strip.

It's a place so cool, there's no name plate out front, only two, towering, free-standing mahogany doors. A fluorescent

orange light illuminates the front desk; plastic balls shaped to look like brains double as lobby chairs.

A few km to the west, on a mostly residential street in Beverly Hills, was the fourth party — the annual Elton John AIDS Foundation benefit at Maple Drive restaurant.

This year, the host committee included such luminaries as Tom Cruise and wife Nicole Kidman, Rosie O'Donnell, Mel Gibson and Susan Sarandon. *In-Style* magazine was underwriting the party, to honor the nominees and executives of Fine Line (*Shine*), Gramercy (*Fargo*) and October Films (*Secrets and Lies* and *Breaking the Waves*).

## Famed crasher caught at Oscarland

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who wrote a how-to book on crashing big events was jailed for trying to sneak into the site of the Academy Awards.

He was booked for trespassing and held on \$250 bail. Scott Kerman, 30, of Los Angeles, author of *All Sold Out: How to Sneak Into Sporting Events and Concerts*, allegedly was caught in the Shrine Auditorium lobby while a rehearsal was under way.

Kerman, a comedian, had predicted in a news release earlier this month that he would infiltrate the Oscars. He boasted that he had snuck into 300 sporting events, including 25 World Series games and five Super Bowls.

"People should not attempt to sneak into the Academy Awards. We have increasing amounts of security here," said Derek Andrade, a spokesman for Pinkerton's Inc., the security firm for the Oscars. "And we will catch you."

The 1980s' most notorious gate crasher, Barry Bremen, shot baskets with NBA All-Stars and rustled ponies with the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders in the 1980s. Last month he said Kerman "followed my career." Bremen once dressed up in a New York Mets baseball uniform and took the field for warmups at the 1986 All-Star game in Houston.

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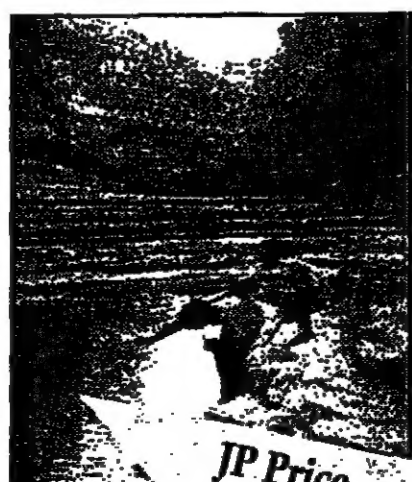
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### ALBRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

process and abiding by the agreements.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's adviser Dor Gold postponed a scheduled trip to Washington today to discuss the crisis with the Palestinians and relations with the US vis-a-vis the peace process.

Sources in Jerusalem expressed concern over the US attitude toward Israel, following Albright's statements doubting Israel's accusations that Arafat is responsible for the violence.

Ambassador to the US Eliahu Ben-Elissar was to meet Albright last night, at his request. Ben-Elissar was expected to complain about statements from administration speakers, to the effect that the US has no solid proof that Arafat gave the "green light" to carry out terrorist attacks.

Albright said on Sunday night that Arafat must increase his efforts to fight terrorism. She said he made 100 percent effort to stop terrorism, but did not achieve 100% results. Albright also noted that he had condemned the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that President Bill Clinton, Albright and George Tenet, the nominee to become director of the CIA, warned Arafat earlier this month against relaxing his crackdown on Hamas. The three raised the issue during Arafat's US visit March 3 and 4, after the PA reportedly

released 120 Hamas activists.

The US State Department, aligning itself more closely with Israeli concerns, is demanding that the PA tell militants that terrorism against Israel will not be tolerated, it was reported last night.

"The point now is that the Palestinian Authority must send signals to all groups that terrorism will not be tolerated and that if it persists, the Palestinians will suffer the most," an official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press.

Asked yesterday whether, in light of the current Palestinian-Israeli tension, the US can continue pressuring Arafat to crack down on terrorism, a Clinton administration official responded: "I think he can be pressed any time. This is a fundamental responsibility. I just don't buy that argument [that Arafat is performing a domestic balancing act]. This is something he has to do, he must do. It's an absolute precondition for anything else. An implicit basis for Oslo I was a renunciation of violence."

Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday charged the PA with using "political terrorism" to coerce Arab states to suspend their relations with Israel. Levy blasted Arafat for using the international Islamic convention in Pakistan to attack Israel and push the 54 member states to reconsider their relations with Israel.

Levy called on Arafat to cut

short his trip abroad and return home to talk with Israel directly about the acute problem of the PA's relations with it.

Oman, which with Qatar spearheaded the Gulf states' move to establish relations with Israel, announced it is suspending its relations with Israel due to Jerusalem's settlement policy.

At Sunday's security cabinet meeting, other cabinet ministers also lashed out at Arafat for leaving for Islamabad before the end of the tension. Had Arafat really wanted to prevent the violence, he would have stayed in Gaza, they said.

Hillel Kuntler contributed to this report.

### LICENSE

Continued from Page 1

ods were she was taking a lesson every day. Despite failing the test repeatedly, she was always sure she would pass "the next time."

"I never thought to stop for a minute," she said. "My husband and kids encouraged me."

She said she got up "with a good feeling" yesterday and took her 35th test in the morning. Several hours later, Assaf got the good news from the Licensing Office.

Dozhan plans to frame her license and hang it in her room.

"I think I could give hope to other frustrated students," she said. "Don't ever give up!" (Hum)



# Mobutu signals he might change premier

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Zaire's ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko, battling rebels and political infighting as well as cancer, signalled on yesterday he was ready to accept a new prime minister.

State radio said that Mobutu, who arrived back in Zaire on Friday after more cancer treatment in Europe, had "taken note" of a disputed vote by the transitional parliament to sack Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo.

Kengo, a Mobutu ally for two decades despite joining the moderate opposition in recent years, looked likely to pay the price for the rebel advance, political sources said.

"He has effectively been ousted," a senior government official close to Kengo said.

Supporters of veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, who has long coveted the premiership, and even Mobutu loyalists, said the veteran president's comments suggested that Kengo's government, in office since 1994, was finished.

"Mobutu has taken note... If he did not agree he would have said so," Andre Boboloko, a vice-president of parliament, said.

Boboloko, whose radical pro-

opposition group spearheaded the motion to dump Kengo, said opposition parties would meet soon to choose a candidate for the premiership.

Mobutu's 32-year reign is facing gradual collapse because of the dramatic success of the rebellion in the east launched last October by Laurent Kabila.

The veteran anti-Mobutu fighter now controls about one quarter of Africa's third-largest country.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) holds a special summit on the Zaire crisis tomorrow in the small West African state of Togo. There was no official word from Kinshasa whether Mobutu would attend but Kabila, invited to an OAU meeting for the first time, agreed to send a delegation.

Kabila's aides told Reuters in Kisangani that Bizima Karaha, chief foreign policy strategist for the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), would attend the summit in Lome, the Togolese capital.

The aides said Kabila would not be going because of security concerns.

Togo's President Gnassingbe Eyadema, in power since 1967, is

one of Mobutu's closest political friends and is among the African leaders distrusted by Zaire's rebels.

Officials in Rwanda and Uganda told Reuters the two countries — accused by Zaire of backing Kabila's forces — would only send low-level ministerial delegations.

Mobutu refused to be drawn about whether he would negotiate with Kabila. "In the next 48 hours you will know," he told reporters.

Diplomatic efforts to end the war have focused on calls for a truce and talks.

The UN Security Council came up with a ceasefire plan, which the Zairean government accepted but Kabila demanded direct talks with Mobutu before a ceasefire.

US and French envoys were lobbying about 20 African governments yesterday to push for a ceasefire agreement at the Lome summit, French officials said.

Joint Franco-American approaches are being made today in a number of African countries to draw their attention to the importance we place upon the end of hostilities and the start of negotiations," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt in Paris.



Clashes in Belarus

Belarusian policemen drag a demonstrator to a police car during a protest rally in central Minsk. About 4,000 nationalists defied a ban on marching and made their way through the downtown area towards the rally. (Reuters)

## Gore tries personal stamp on Asia

TOKYO (AP) — Adding a new dimension to relationships traditionally anchored on economic and security concerns, Vice President Al Gore is working with Japan and China on an environmental agenda designed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

The discussions offer Gore an opportunity to put his personal stamp on Clinton administration foreign policy by focusing on environmental issues that have brought him a mix of praise and scorn back home.

In Tokyo yesterday, Gore proposed that the United States and Japan take the lead in persuading industrial countries and developing nations such as China and India to significantly reduce levels of carbon monoxide and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere.

Aides said Gore hopes the agreement can be completed in time for a global environmental conference in Kyoto, Japan, next December.

"Economic and security issues are vitally important," Gore said in a speech to an environmental forum laying the groundwork for the Kyoto conference. "Yet they are undergirded and integrally connected to our stewardship of the planet."

Gore's one-day visit to Tokyo included dinner with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, a courtesy call on Japan's emperor and empress and meetings with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to discuss policies on China and trade as well as US leases for military bases in Okinawa.

"Japan is America's key ally and closest partner in Asia," Gore said as he arrived Sunday. "There is no more important bilateral relationship in the world than that between the United States and Japan."

Given the attempts to bring North and South Korea together for formal peace talks, Gore said, "this would be the very worst time" for

the United States to consider shrinking its military commitment in the region. That includes around 40,000 troops in South Korea as well as Navy, Marine and Air Force units in Japan.

The environment also is high on Gore's agenda for four days of talks in China.

Coal is China's most abundant energy resource. With many of its older power plants spewing sulphur dioxide into the air, China is on a path to pass the United States early next century as the largest emitter of carbon dioxide.

Already, five of the world's 10 most polluted cities are in China. More broadly, China's remarkable economic expansion has come at a high price to the environment.

For the first time in China's 5,000-year history, Gore said, the Yellow River runs "bone dry" for some periods in the year. Japanese officials complain of acid rain they blame on China's coal-dependent economy.

## Cosbys threaten to sue tabloid

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Entertainer Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, are demanding a retraction from a tabloid over statements suggesting Mrs. Cosby hired gunmen to find her only son's killer, the family's publicist said.

The Cosbys, who want an apology and a correction, claim that the Feb. 4 edition of the weekly *National Enquirer* also falsely suggests Mrs. Cosby was being seduced and on the verge of a nervous breakdown, family spokesman David Brokaw said.

"The Cosbys would never take the law into their own hands," Brokaw said. "The *National Enquirer* has always had a fine relationship with Bill because they checked out rumors with him

before rushing to print. This time they never checked it out."

Ennis Cosby, 27, was shot to death Jan. 16 while changing a flat tire on his Mercedes-Benz convertible. The tabloid offered a \$100,000 reward for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of his killer.

After the story ran, the Cosbys asked the *National Enquirer* to withdraw the reward. The newspaper was the first to receive the tip that led to the arrest of Mikhail Markhashev, a Russian immigrant.

A subheadline that ran on the cover of the Feb. 4 edition read: "The grieving mom: She hires million-dollar gunmen to hunt son's killer." David Perel, the newspaper's

executive editor, said the subheadline refers to the Cosbys' hiring of private investigator Gavin DeBecker to help find the killer.

"The firm is licensed to use guns," Perel said. "And at times they do carry guns." DeBecker, however, says the *Enquirer's* portrayal of him as a gunman is wrong. "I am not licensed to carry a gun. And that headline is clearly inaccurate," he said.

DeBecker also refuted the *Enquirer's* claim that Mrs. Cosby was on sedatives, saying she has been "emotionally healthy."

The suspect, Markhashev, 18, was being held without bail on a murder charge until his next court appearance Friday. He could face the death penalty.

## Suspected Saudi bomb driver held

By PIERRE THOMAS and N. JEFFREY SMITH

If the officials are correct, the capture by Canadian immigration authorities of Hani Abdel Rahim Sayegh would constitute a major breakthrough for the FBI in its nine-month probe of the bombing of Dharran US military base.

The probe has been frustrated by what US officials have called inadequate cooperation by Saudi investigators.

Sayegh, 28, is said by the officials to have fled Saudi Arabia because he was the object of a manhunt there, and has expressed a desire not to return. But he has not cooperated with authorities who have been questioning him while documents are being prepared to justify his deportation to the United States, the officials said.

Sayegh was taken into custody more than a week after US authorities learned he was in Canada, during which time he became the object of intensive surveillance. FBI officials expressed concern last week when *The Washington Post* inquired about reports of the surveillance, and requested that the newspaper hold off reporting that a Saudi citizen in Canada was being closely watched on suspicion of a connection to the bombing.

Sayegh was arrested last week under a Canadian immigration service certificate alleging he was "a security risk to Canada," which Canadian authorities said was based on the government's belief that he had committed a criminal act abroad, was involved in an act of terrorism and was a member of a terrorist organization.

The US officials said that they believe Sayegh is a Shiite Muslim. Saudi officials have told Washington privately that they believe the bombing was carried out by Shiite Muslim members of a group known as Saudi Hizbullah, which they say is a wing of the radical Lebanese-based Hizbullah, that has long been funded, trained and equipped by Iran.

Sayegh's name had surfaced as a suspect shortly after the June 25 bombing of the Khobar Towers housing complex in Dharran, the US officials said. "We think he's a major player and we have had interest in him for some time," said a senior law enforcement official, speaking on condition he not be identified.

The bombing occurred after an explosives-laden truck was driven near a fence that surrounded the housing complex. The driver of the truck was observed getting into a car idling nearby shortly before the bomb was detonated, shattering windows throughout

the building and injuring many of its occupants.

Saudi officials told Washington last fall that they had captured the man who drove the truck. Two senior US law enforcement officials said while they believe Sayegh was the driver of a vehicle in connection with the bombing, they could not definitively say which vehicle.

Saudi officials did not return phone calls for comment last evening. But Sayegh's deportation to the United States would give the FBI its first direct access to an individual alleged to be associated with the blast.

US efforts to interview about 40 Saudi citizens detained by Saudi Arabia on suspicion of involvement in the blast have so far been frustrated by Saudi investigators, who have provided Washington only with summaries of their findings and transcripts of their interviews with the suspects.

Sayegh was said by one US official to have been in Canada since

August, and is alleged to have flown there from Saudi Arabia after a brief layover in Boston. The official, who is familiar with details of the joint US-Saudi investigation, declined to say how Washington learned of his whereabouts.

Shiite activists in the United States and in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, where most Saudi Shiites live, separately said yesterday that on the basis of his family names, Sayegh is a Saudi Shiite.

According to one of the activists, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the Sayegh family hails from a village called Tarut, on a small peninsula that juts into the Persian Gulf about 25 miles northwest of the Khobar Towers complex. Many of those Shiites arrested by Saudi security forces after the bombing were from Tarut and adjacent towns in the mostly agricultural area along the gulf coast.

A second Saudi citizen, Fahad Shehri, also has been detained by Canadian authorities in recent months because Shehri claimed to

be the object of a Saudi manhunt related to the bombing. But US authorities have disavowed any interest in Shehri, and Saudi authorities have said Shehri, almost certainly a Sunni, is not a suspect.

Saudi Shiites have long complained of discrimination at the hands of the Sunni ruling family and the Eastern Province has been the scene of occasional Shiite unrest. Many of those arrested were affiliated with Saudi Hizbullah, which follows the anti-Western teachings of radical Shiite clerics in Iran.

But Shiite dissidents in the Eastern Province remain skeptical of the government claim. They say the government has targeted their community to deflect attention from growing extremism within Sunni ranks.

And the government's failure to press formal charges against those Shiites still in detention, they say, suggests that it is unable to prove its case.

(The Washington Post)

## Aussies repeal 1st euthanasia law

CANBERRA (Reuters) - The Australian parliament overturned the world's first and only euthanasia law yesterday, nine months after the Northern Territory introduced it to let terminally ill people commit assisted suicide.

The upper house of parliament, the Senate, voted 38 to 33 in favor of a backbencher's bill, already passed by the lower house, that broke constitutional convention by intervening in the territory's affairs to quash its euthanasia law.

Leading euthanasia campaigner doctor Phillip Nitschke, who has

helped four people die under the law, immediately burned a copy of the bill outside the Senate in protest at the vote.

He said the Senate had dashed the hopes of two terminally ill people in the territory who had completed legal formalities and were preparing to kill themselves.

"The Senate of Australia betrayed the terminally ill in Australia," Nitschke told reporters.

The vote followed an unusually heated debate in which one euthanasia supporter challenged

his opponents to explain themselves to people who sought suicide as a release from pain.

"How can you say: 'We will not let you do it, we intervene, we know better than you do, notwithstanding your pain, your suffering, your indignity?'" asked Greens senator Bob Brown.

Four people have legally killed themselves, using a machine that injects a lethal drug through a computer program, since the outback Territory's legislation came into effect in July.

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## Virtual pressure

On Friday, after three women having lunch in a Tel Aviv cafe were killed by a Hamas suicide bomber, US President Bill Clinton made his most specific statement to date about the Palestinians' responsibility to combat terrorism.

Standing next to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Helsinki, Clinton said, "There is no place for terror and violence in the peace process.... The Palestinian Authority has to make clear to the friends and to the enemies of the peace process that it is unalterably opposed to terror, and must take all possible steps to make that clear and to prevent any terror from occurring."

Clinton continued: "This is a formulation that has frequently been used in the Middle East. But everyone knows that no one in the Middle East can guarantee 100 percent protection against terror. But all the people who participate in the peace process should guarantee a 100 percent effort against terror."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said last weekend that Arafat must "do more" to combat terrorism. Why then, is Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat not listening? When asked to condemn Friday's bombing on camera, Arafat scowled and walked away. Rather than renew contacts with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he took off for an Islamic Summit in Pakistan. There he continued fanning the flames on the issue of Jerusalem, even holding up a drawing of the fantasy of an Israeli fringe group to rebuild the Temple in place of the mosques on the Temple Mount.

At the same time, Israeli security officials are speaking out with unusual unity, clarity and alarm about the threat of more attacks. On Sunday, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said, "Arafat gave the green light to the radical organizations to carry out attacks." IDF Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak also warned that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have a tacit agreement with Arafat. The security chiefs also accuse Palestinian security chief Jibril Rajoub of complicity in the rioting in Hebron.

Clearly, the public and private efforts to convince Arafat to control his people have had little impact. Arafat whispers in American ears that he is against violence, then goes out to beat the war drums in the struggle for Jerusalem. As in the weeks before the Hebron agreement was signed, Arafat believes that maintaining a gen-

eral atmosphere of violence is in his interest, so long as his personal fingerprints can be kept far enough away from the trigger.

When American spokesmen are asked why they do not do more to deter Palestinian violence now, they point to numerous statements made against violence and throw up their hands. The US position, after all, is identical to Israel's in many respects: The standard for combating terrorism is "100 percent effort," the Palestinians must "do more" to meet this standard, and there is "no place" for terror in the peace process.

There is, however, one subtle but critical difference in the US and Israeli positions that is giving Arafat exactly the wiggle room he needs. Israel places substantial indirect responsibility on Arafat for Friday's terror attack and for potential attacks in the future. The US presses Arafat to "do more", but is much more hesitant to blame him for terrorism.

The difference can be seen in the determined American refusal to endorse Israel's contention that Arafat has given a "green light" to terrorists. Clinton and Albright refused to comment, and State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns went to considerable lengths to avoid confirming this Israeli charge. Practically the only direct criticism of a specific act or statement by Arafat was US Ambassador Martin Indyk's statement that the release of Hamas military wing leader Ibrahim Makadmeh was "particularly ill-timed."

The signal sent by this stance is that the US is reluctant to blame Arafat for turning a blind eye toward terrorism. Arafat takes this US reluctance as a green light to continue talking about peace while agitating for violence.

There are different possible explanations for the Clinton administration's kid-glove treatment of Arafat. Administration officials may be afraid of giving the Netanyahu government an excuse for cutting off talks with Palestinians. They may be afraid of the US Congress cutting off aid to the Palestinians, which is contingent upon the Palestinian commitment to combat violence.

Whatever the reason, the US has been exerting only "virtual pressure" on Arafat. There is no doubt that the US desire to prevent violence is sincere. But as long as Arafat believes that he will not be blamed and can escape the consequences of violence, he has no reason to remove that option from his diplomatic quiver.



## Arafat's on-off terror tap

During his nine-year tour in the gulag, Natan Sharansky faced his share of interrogators. But he seemed genuinely taken aback when CNN's Bernard Shaw asked him about the Israeli "settlement" being built in "Arab East Jerusalem."

After a moment's hesitation, Sharansky explained patiently that this was (a) not a settlement but a housing development; (b) on a completely barren hilltop (c) between two existing Jewish neighborhoods (d) on Jerusalem land 75 percent owned by Jews (e) that every government of Israel, Labor and Likud, including that of the sainted Yitzhak Rabin, had declared unequivocally part of the capital of Israel. (He might have added that "Arab East Jerusalem" is majority Jewish.)

Shaw could be forgiven for parroting the PLO line on Har Homa: Practically every news and wire service was giving the same impression of some alien Jewish colony being planted among the teeming Arab masses of East Jerusalem. It took the TV cameras, not normally friendly to Israel, to show that this part of Jerusalem is not "Arab," and quite empty.

No matter. Yasser Arafat wants it. He wants Har Homa. He wants the Old City. He wants all of that part of Jerusalem from which Jews were expelled when it was conquered by Jordan in 1948.

He wants an independent Palestinian state. He wants a flag, a UN seat, an army. He wants all of the West Bank and Gaza. He wants an airport and a seaport. He wants, he wants....

And when anything occurs indicating that he might be denied any of his myriad wants, he becomes quite deliberately, quite publicly agitated, and creates a crisis. Hence the only minimally-veiled threats of violence coming from Arafat and his aides over Har Homa.

They talk ominously about how the Palestinian masses might

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

"spontaneously" turn to terror and violence if this project continues. Spontaneous terror and violence that Arafat turns on and off to suit his purposes.

Indeed, last week Arafat pointedly met with four Hamas terrorist leaders. He then released from prison Ibrahim Makadmeh, noto-

**The US reaction? Blissful ignorance and diplomatic pap**

rious head of Hamas's "military wing."

WHAT has been the US response to this ostentatious display of the terrorist card?

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns: "We have recent assurances from Chairman Arafat that he stands against violence.... That is a very strong and important message...."

But blissful ignorance and diplomatic pap will not do. It didn't take long for the futility of this position to be exposed. By Friday, Hamas had struck, blowing up a bomb in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing or maiming scores of innocents, including many children.

Beginning with "I have good news for you," a Hamas leader announced the bombing immediately at a rally. The audience of 10,000 applauded and cried, "God is great!"

If the Oslo peace process has any meaning, it is that peace is to be achieved through negotiation, and not through violence or threats of violence. Arafat made that pledge explicitly, in writing.

But when displeased by Israel not giving him what he wants, he quite literally goes on the warpath, bringing the mob to the gate, the terrorists to his table, and the bus bombers out of jail —

and the US offers not a word of criticism.

Instead, it advises the Palestinians not to resort to violence. That's the language of the past," says Burns.

But the reason to eschew violence is not because it is out of date, but because its prohibition is the very heart of the bargain struck on the White House Lawn in September 1993.

Land for peace, remember? If peace means peace whenever Arafat is happy with Israeli concessions, but war whenever he wants more than the Israelis will give him, then this "peace" means nothing.

President Clinton himself advised the Palestinians against violence. Why? "Because they wind up losing. They wind up getting hurt."

What kind of morality is that? Thou shalt not kill — lest it work to your disadvantage?

And what if it does benefit them, as it did Arafat during the tunnel riots last year? What if it serves as excellent blackmail to extort from the Israelis more and more — in the end, even Jerusalem?

Arafat waves the gun, and what does the administration do? It commends him for his "admirable restraint."

Why is it incapable of making the clear statement that (1) the Oslo accords, solemnly signed, prohibit violence; that (2) no violence or threat of violence will be tolerated in what is supposed to be a peace process; and that (3) if the Palestinians nonetheless threaten or perpetrate violence, Oslo must be considered void, and Israel released of any further obligation under its terms?

Were President Clinton to say that, he could be sure that Arafat, a man whose calculation exceeds even his duplicity, would call off his dogs.

Why doesn't he say it?

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## 'A little present'

YOSEF GOELL

I must have caused a very chuckle or two among those who noticed that the chief rabbi's statement this week — that he would no longer accept money for performing weddings — was issued in his name by a firm of media advisers.

When a chief rabbi — and a super-articulate one, to boot — feels he has to hire media consultants to explain himself, doesn't it give the impression that the firmer he's gotten himself into stinks to high heaven?

Rabbi Lau has retained the firm Ronni Rimon and Benny Cohen, ever since the publication last Friday of a *Ha'aretz* magazine article claiming that Lau received between \$500 and \$2,500 for officiating at weddings.

The article, which set off a public furor, highlighted a well-known fact: that neighborhood and city rabbis, though salaries and official duties of the public purse, often demand hefty sums from couples they are marrying. These couples have already handed over a wedding fee to the local religious council, which pays rabbis' salaries.

As public officials, rabbis may not accept gifts for carrying out their official functions.

This is even more stringent where the chief rabbi is concerned, because he is also a dayan on the Supreme Rabbinical Court, deemed equivalent to a judge, and earning the same as Supreme Court justices and cabinet ministers.

In his statement, Lau said: "I feel that I must establish a new public norm. I am aware of the public criticism which asserts that it is improper for a chief rabbi to receive compensation for performing weddings — in spite of the ancient tradition to the contrary, and the legal opinions that the practice is legal, and [in spite

**In the shtetl, rabbis lived on 'gifts.' But here a chief rabbi earns as much as a cabinet minister**

of the fact] that all the proceeds are reported for tax purposes, and tax paid.

"As of today, I will not agree to receive remuneration for performing weddings, and I will advise couples... to donate [the money] to charity...."

ORIT Shohat's article has to be read to be enjoyed.

First Lau denied demanding payment; then he said his wife takes care of all wedding invitations; then he denied ever receiving \$2,500, but puffed off around the \$500; then he argued that giving rabbis gifts was perfectly legitimate and in keeping with long-established tradition — and that, in any case, it was wrong to compare his position to that of any other public official, a judge, for example.

The article claimed that Lau would often open an envelope he had received after the wedding, and, if displeased, would say to the couple, "And what about something for [Lau's official driver, who moonlights as his personal assistant at weddings]?"

Lau is right about the tradition. In the shtetl of Eastern Europe and the mellahs of North Africa, rabbis eked out a hazardous living from such gifts.

But this is Israel, where Lau gets over NIS 20,000 a month, and where neighborhood rabbis earn much more than the average Israeli for very little work.

The time has clearly come to clean out the Augean Stables. There is another very serious problem. Since the 1980s, there has been a dispute between the income tax authorities and the rabbinic authorities over whether these moneys received by rabbis should be considered tax-exempt gifts, or as taxable income. As a result, the authorities have not issued final tax assessments.

The issue extends beyond wedding "gifts."

A while ago, the media reported on the exorbitant fees extorted, often minutes before a *bris*, by ritual circumcisers, who also get salaries from their respective religious councils.

And many burial societies, whose expenses are officially covered by the National Insurance Institute, pay their officials annual salaries in the hundreds of thousands of shekels, squeezed out of families in their moment of bereavement.

With Purim over and our minds on spring cleaning, one hopes that the chief rabbi's statement this week doesn't prevent some long-standing abuses from being swept out from under the carpet.

The writer comments on current affairs.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ENVIRONMENTALISM

Sir, — Jesse Zel Lurie (Letters, March 7) calls on "environmentalists" to "scream their protests" against the planned removal of some trees in the area where the Har Homa community is to be built.

If Mr. Lurie were genuinely interested in protection of the environment, one would have expected him to be "screaming in protest" during Yossi Sarid's term as minister of the environment, since Sarid consistently refused to take action against the Palestinian Authority's pollution of the environment. For example, *Ha'aretz* reported on June 2 (just before Sarid left office) that the head of the National Sewage Authority, Yehuda Bar, had warned that raw sewage from PLO-controlled Nablus and

Tulkarm was being dumped into Israel's Alexander River, and raw sewage from PLO-controlled Kalkiya was being dumped into Israel's Yarkon River. Yet Sarid was silent in the face of this outrageous PLO behavior, just as he was silent any time the PLO did anything improper, in the belief that complaints "harm the peace process." And Jesse Zel Lurie was likewise silent, presumably for the same reason, which indicates that Lurie's sudden concern for the trees in Har Homa is just a convenient tool to advance his political, not environmental, goals.

HERBERT ZWIBON  
Chairman, Americans for a Safe Israel

New York.

### DIASPORA JEWS

Sir, — I am saddened to think that certain members of Israel's hierarchy seem to think that Israel can now exist alone without support from the Diaspora. Making these statements at any time upsets me. The generosity of the Diaspora in so many ways has been incalculable, but the most dramatic and significant contribution by Jews in the Diaspora to the State of Israel was demonstrated in 1948.

Invaluable assistance was given to the fledgling Palmach and Hagana forces. Experienced veterans of WWII volunteered and brought not only their skills, but crucial military equipment. They laid the foundations of the Israel

Defense Forces. By July 1948, much of Israel was conquered, and the massive Egyptian forces were 20 miles from Tel Aviv. Ironically, the first fighter planes delivered by Machal (volunteer) pilots were four Messerschmitts, which attacked and halted the Egyptian advance.

If anyone should not minimize the standing of the Diaspora, it is Ezer Weizman. After all, he flew one of those Messerschmitts.

STANLEY MEDICKS,  
Co-ordinator, British and European Machal Association

London.

### KING'S RESPONSIBILITY

Sir, — I place the responsibility for the murder of the school girls directly into the lap of King Hussein.

As our so-called "friend in peace," the king in a recent address, condemned our position regarding Har Homa and the closure of four PA offices in eastern Jerusalem, and threatened us that our stand may lead to violence. This is a statement of taciturn approval and a go-ahead signal. Instead of saying regardless of differences, we will not resort to violence, he mimicked the tactics of Yasser Arafat threatening vio-

lence. The two of them see peace in different terms from us. They do not speak the same language. Peace to them means the annihilation of Israel. They do not understand peaceful coexistence. It is a concept beyond their comprehension.

The sooner we accept this difference in goals and terminology, the fewer such occurrences and murder of innocent victims will occur.

GOLDE BODEK

Jerusalem.

### HOT-BLOODED

Sir, — In his column, *Reporter's Notebook*, Herb Keilon referred to Beit Shemesh as "hot-blooded." Sadly this innocent comment does more than a small injustice to the reality of life in our community. It would be harder to find a calmer environment where Jews from all corners of the globe live in mutual respect and tolerance of each other.

Beit Shemesh's conduct during the recent tragedy could serve as a model for many communities. The incident that Herb Keilon mentioned (during Peres's visit in the 80's) happened almost 20 years ago. Beit Shemesh has grown and developed since those days and is proudly facing a future where it is aimed to quadruple its population in the next five years, and we have successfully absorbed immigrants from all corners of the globe. Despite the differences in cultures, there is a harmonious existence based on mutual respect and religious tolerance.

RAFFI KLEIN

Jerusalem.

### A TWO-SHEKEL COIN

Sir, — I agree that a Magen David would look most appropriate on coins here in Israel. How about making it the design on a two-shekel coin?

Having the half shekel, one- and five-shekel coins as small change is simply not enough. How many times have I bought something at a supermarket, kiosk or any other shop for that matter, only to wait for the cashier asking everybody for change; finally you receive a handful of one-shekel coins in return. The one-shekel coins are forever hiding in the deepest corner in your pocket and purse, making you always dig for them.

I strongly suggest that the authorities look into providing the public with a two-shekel coin. I am sure that it will provide a relief to givers and takers of small change.

M. BEZUIDENHAUT

Ma'ayan Zvi.

מכזמן הצלח



# A 'Portrait' of Aviva Marks

By HELEN KAYE

Soft scented summer night. A full moon laying silver ribbons across the shifting surface of the sea. A yacht, riding at anchor. A young man wooing a beautiful older woman.

"It was all great fun," says Aviva Marks, breaking the spell, "up to the night we worked until 5:30 in the morning on the deck of this yacht. I had on a summer dress, and I was freezing."

This yacht is *Papaya's Yacht*, and the teleplay is one of eight new segments of *Jaffa Portraits* which first aired last fall on the Family Channel.

The new series, like its predecessor, is based on the hugely popular stories of Jaffa low-lives in the '50s and '60s by Menahem Talmi and starts on Thursday at 8:50 with *The Twin Diamond Mystery*. *Papaya's Yacht*, scheduled to be the fourth show, tells the story of Susan (Marks), a rich widow, who has an affair with the attractive rogue (Haim Zanic) who stole a valuable picture from her. She knows he's a rogue, but she doesn't care, because "for the first time in my life, I'm having the time of my life." And when Susan's daughter, played by model Michaela Berk, tries to get her



mother off the yacht (specially hired for the tryout), "I refuse," laughs Marks, "and off we dance into the sunset."

The last time she acted in Hebrew was for the Sifria Theater production of J.B. Priestley's *Dangerous Corner*, and a revival of *Breaking the Code* which she first did for the Cameri Theater in 1988, opposite Oded Tzomi who was her first partner on the Israeli stage.

And when she doesn't perform in Hebrew, there's always English. She recently completed a cameo role in Henry Jaglom's *Deja Vu*, a tour-de-force, single-take performance as a mysterious Frenchwoman, the catalyst for a love story that's played out in Israel, the UK and France over 40 years.

She made friends with Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko when he came to do a fund-raiser for Ben-Gurion University last winter, and Marks was asked to read one of his poems which he would choose on the spot. He heard her read, and decided, "You will read all of them," he told her.

She had her own one-woman show which toured the English-speaking Jewish world for eight years. Called *Homecoming*, it was about the return of Jews to Zion from the 12th to the 20th century with a bit of her own history to tie it together.

An ardent Zionist, the British-

born actress first came for a visit in 1962, and promptly landed herself a starring role with Teomi in the comedy *Ring Around the Moon*.

Templed back to England by a lucrative TV contract in 1967, Marks came back for good in 1967 and played leading roles at both the Cameri and Habimah. Playwright Nissim Aloni even wrote a part for her in his 1971 *The Gypsies of Jaffa*.

She was flighty Miss Belle in that. Now she's cool, aristocratic Susan, picked for the role by series director Arik Lubetski, who also adapted the stories together with co-director Matti Harari.

The characters of *Jaffa Portraits* are first cousin to Damon Runyon's unforgettable wise guys, petty criminals, and hustlers that are charter members of the Djama (Gang), like Big Solomon (Uri Gavriel), the godfather of the gang, the jokester Hazuka (Moti Ben-Ishai) and lady's man Prosper (Gabi Dan).

They're back, getting up to no good, and always planning the ultimate scam that will make them rich and respected, but that always lands them in more hot water than they bargained for.

## Israel's history on celluloid

By TOM GROSS

*Dreamers and Builders*, which will be publicly screened for the first time tonight at the Jerusalem Cinematheque (7), is a truly magnificent piece of cinema which brilliantly captures many of the most significant moments in the creation of modern Israel.

Even those who don't usually have the patience to sit through old black-and-white documentary footage are likely to be gripped by this fascinating and enchanting hour-long film. Film maker Ya'akov Gross has restored and woven together footage from three films made in the 1920s by the father of Hebrew cinema, Ya'akov Ben-Dov.

They provide intriguing glimpses of life as these dreamers and builders plant the seeds of a new state: immigrants arriving by boat, mass exercise classes by the Technion in Haifa, society weddings, women pioneers clad in ripped clothes sweating away with pickaxes as they break rocks to build new roads near Afula, archeological finds in Tiberias, a ceremony founding the country's first bank, the Anglo-Palestine (which later became Bank Leumi), and so on.

But what really fascinates is the incredible range of important figures Ben-Dov has caught on camera. Dizengoff, Bograshov, Sokolow, Weizmann - those we now know primarily as street names are dramatically brought to life. We see Ben-Yehuda's funeral, the laying of the cornerstone of the Hebrew University, Albert Einstein's visit in 1923, Rabbi Abraham Kook, Lord Balfour, Lawrence of Arabia, Jabotinsky at his desk, the winery at Rishon LeZion and the building of Tel Aviv's Rothschild Boulevard. By extraordinary coincidence, Ben-Dov even filmed Moshe Dayan as a young boy.

Amy Kronish, curator of Jewish films at the Cinematheque, which jointly restored the film footage with the National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University, said "We're very pleased with Gross's whole approach. His decision, for example,

to use journalistic writings and diary entries from the perspective of the 1920s to write the film's voice-over narration gives it an authentic touch."

Adding to the twist, all three films - *Return to Zion*, *Romance of Palestine*, *Rebirth of a New Palestine* - were thought lost for the best part of 70 years, but in recent years were dramatically rediscovered.

Although small pieces of the print of *Return to Zion* survived in part in Israel, it was only in the 1980s that a complete copy was discovered in Prague, although because of lack of diplomatic relations, it was not until after the collapse of Communism in 1989 that the Israel Film Archive was given a copy. "We knew the film had existed there because Franz Kafka mentioned seeing it in his memoirs," says Kronish.

Then in the 1990s, the two other supposedly lost films unexpectedly turned up at the Library of Congress in Washington. Ben-Dov himself, who was better known as a still photographer than a filmmaker, died in near obscurity, his films all but forgotten.

"He was the last man to buy a plot on the Mount of Olives before 1948 and the first to be buried there after the Six Day War," Ben-Dov's daughter, Hannah, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"There were hardly any cinemas in those days. My father used to project films on sheets at home on Friday nights. I've never seen them before as a real film sequence. My father would be thrilled with Gross's new film. The passion he invested much of his life in has paid off."

Not only the films were lost. Many of the scenes caught on film, such as the Old City's Hurva synagogue, destroyed by the Jordanians and now famously represented by an arch, and trains going through the heart of Tel Aviv, no longer exist.

This single Russian-born filmmaker caught a tremendous amount on film which has now been beautifully pieced together in an attractive and accessible way that is likely to become standard viewing for local schoolchildren. A rare treat.

## The pianist's 'total freedom'

By MICHAEL AJENSTADT

Yugoslav pianist Ivo Pogorelich, who is now based in London, sounds as though he misses the excellent education system of the former communist regime. "Musicians were treated equally to sportsmen back then. We were given special and better education, just like sportsmen got steroids, but it was always for the glory of the state. But the education was paid for. Today this is quite rare."

He argues that the arts (and music in particular) are "a form of luxury society should maintain. Societies preferring instant gratification will never be able to have true art."

Pogorelich's musical interests are extensive. Beyond his work as a pianist, his interest in musicology has benefited his former compatriots. "I support a music academy in Croatia... in which every student gets a personal program tailored to his needs."

"I now do research on classical music based on folk music like the music of Granados, Villa-Lobos, Gershwin and a lot of Greek

music. I also study 20th-century polyphonic music by Hindemith and Shostakovich, for example."

But he will not play chamber music, and few of his recitals are played with an orchestra. He is also very particular as to how many recitals he plays, and when he plays them. "I don't play outdoors or in summer festivals, I also don't play in the autumn or winter."

And, with regard to the content of his programs, he says: "A recital must have a variety of styles and expressions and it should have a certain sense of good humor too."

In his current recital tour in Israel he plays Bach's second English suite, Scriabin's fourth sonata and works by Granados and Rachmaninoff.

So where's the humor in these works? "Well, everyone in the audience will have to find that for himself."

An exclusive recording artist of Deutsche Grammophon, he has always enjoyed carte blanche regarding his recorded repertoire. "This is how it should be. A true artist should be given total freedom in anything he does."



Ivo Pogorelich: An advocate of 'true art.'

Ivo Pogorelich plays tonight at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, tomorrow in Mizra, Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium and Saturday at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

### IN TUNE



Aerosmith: Formulaic and uninspired

## Hard rock by numbers

By DAVID BRINN

The title of Aerosmith's new album says it all. They should have been dead a long time ago, like most of those other hard-rock '70s relics.

*Nine Lives* is a "by the numbers" effort. Steven Tyler's howl and Joe Perry's virtuosic guitar attack are spread thin over power ballads, horn-driven ranch & roll, mid-tempo rockers. Most of it is passable, but it also sounds totally formulaic and uninspired.

Half of it sounds like REO

introduce some Eastern influences, just as the Rolling Stones did on their last album.

On *Nine Lives*, Aerosmith sounds like they've just about used up their allotment.

FOLLOWING the international success of *First Band on the Moon*, Swedish phenomenons The Cardigans have re-released their 1994 debut album *Emmerdale*.

Nina Persson's Betty Boop-style vocals can be seen in development, as well as the band's quirky, alternative pop.

There's a slight jazzy feel to some of the material that has since been erased in their jump to the top. However, the band's singular style can already be sensed by a cocktail lounge cover of Black Sabbath's headbanging standard, "Sabbath Bloody Sabbath."

The talent is clearly simmering in the pot waiting to boil. But if you like *First Band on the Moon*, it's no sure thing that you'll like this.

Speedwagon's Greatest Hits and the other half sounds like Guns 'n' Roses once removed. Which is especially disheartening, considering that Axel Rose and co. initially looked to Aerosmith as their role model.

The title track is a fairly bristling attack with trademark "Sweet Emotion" harmonies, but from there, it's hit or miss.

The first single, "Falling in Love," is so slick, it threatens to slip off the CD player, and "Taste of India" is a failed attempt to

TEENYBOPPER music has always been given a bad rap. And *Boys & Girls*, a collection of hits by the likes of Take That, Spice Girls and Robbie Williams, is an attempt to rectify the situation. Every era has its teen idols, but never have they sounded as sophisticated and musically developed as some of these artists.

Knowing that Backstreet Boys are serenading the 10-year-old girls of the world is a comforting thought. David Cassidy never sounded this good.

### TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	6	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#2	NEW	1	VIA	PARTY TIME 3
#3	2	3	U2	POP
#4	12	19	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#5	11	53	SHLOMO ARTZI	TWO
#6	3	18	VIA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#7	25	46	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#8	4	3	PINK FLOYD	DARK SIDE OF THE...
#9	15	3	QUEEN	GREATEST HITS
#10	9	2	JOE COCKER	BEST OF...
#11	19	30	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#12	23	4	WARREN G	TAKE A LOOK OVER...
#13	13	13	VIA	BEST OF '96
#14	20	52	RITA	COLLECTION
#15	7	14	RONIT SHAHAR	SHALOM LATMINUT

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

## REVIEWS

in brief

### Dance

Yaron Margolin's solo performance at Jerusalem's Rebecca Crown Auditorium revealed a quality beyond the romanticism of earlier days. In a program entitled *Islamic Fantasy*, his extensive choreography did not always fare so well for groups and solos for his company, but his characteristic style, especially in its items of modern (Western) dance set to operatic music, was fully evident. And his new Middle-Eastern influence was also an asset.

The main strength of the performance was the participation of such stalwarts of Middle-Eastern dance as Rabel Milstein and Yael Moaz, who emphasized the techniques and their authenticity. It all began with a lively solo by Moaz. Her dazzling hip, thigh, buttock and abdominal movements were fully integrated into the showy "belly dance" idiom with superb control. It rose further to star-level heights with Milstein's solos expressing thought as well as elegance, her skill enhanced by the gorgeous costumes.

Not all the dancers could show such professionalism, but all showed energy and accomplishment even in the rather over-worked finale ensemble that carried the title.

Among others was a "Persian" dance by Yael Hamarati and solos by Gil Chen. Within the limits of these Middle Eastern idioms, the dances, apart from the rather muddled finale, displayed a well-conceived and enjoyable variety. *Dora Sowden*

Musa is a young contemporary dance company supported by the Tel Aviv municipality in order to provide an alternative professional outlet for dancers. Since most of the dancers are under-schooled but the choreographers are more experienced, extra effort is needed in choosing the repertoire.

Amir Malela's *She May Dream* uses the most insipid, overused dance theater vocabulary, yet it seems that the work he created sits well with the inexperienced dancers. One doesn't need a company for that, an amateur workshop is more adequate.

But Galit Friedkin's *Bulls* shows Musa's potential. A group of six dancers and a profusion of yards of yarn and coils of threads, shared the Suzanne Dellal stage with the Yael Harif string orchestra, playing an original score by Roni Porat, the conductor and, for a few moments, performer. The dialogue between the two groups flows in a very informal, easy-going way. The dance is fresh and funny, but I suspect it will need some serious tightening and, even then, it may not sustain itself without live music. *Ora Braffman*

### Theater

TheaterNetto '97, the annual four-day festival of one-man shows at the Suzanne Dellal Center, opened this year with a novel event.

Roni Nino's cross-cultural Erev Tov ("Good Evening") combined the talents of six artists representative of the ethnic elements in our society. Among them were a village Arab, a Barbie blonde, a new-immigrant Ethiopian and a Russian. Existential monodramas set to the rock music of Ezytaar Banai and the antics of a rapping redhead, eloquently verbalized their respective social hangups. Taher Majid in his panegyric of the Arab village staple, *Ez Zayit* ("Olive Tree"), showed a promising new talent, as did Shmuel Biro with his touching tale of a naive Ethiopian's plunge into the seamy Sabra sex scene.

Monodrama is a risky genre. An actor exposed alone onstage for over an hour faces the most telling test of his powers. But even the most inspired presentation is liable to limp where theme or text fail to carry weight. This applies to Yonatan Tcheritchi's vindication of convicted traitor Mordechai Vanunu. In *Adon V*, ("Mr. V"), Tcheritchi, a consummate actor with a silken, sinewy quality, pleads the traitor's case. Yet for all his exquisitely modulated passion, the text fails to win us over to a completely sympathetic view of the crime.

Likewise, the highly sensitive but totally subjective and to some extent defeatist text of Red Ribbons (Semadar Amitai) which dramatizes the sufferings of a war-battered father, Uri Avrahami, an elegant, sophisticated actor graphically projects a stricken generation in a text which never addresses the way out of the morass. 18 Months, another touching but tenuous tale of a bereaved father, this one a drifter, a drinker, and a marriage breaker, was made lively by Pini Mittelman whose gravelly voice was a constant irritant.

Not just irritating, but downright deadly, was Merav Geri's banal vocal and mannered treatment that all but killed High Heat (Wallace Shaw), a vibrant exposure of Third World woes. In *Sit Down Ma*, Sherron Reggiano struggled with a badly bloated text of his own creation depicting a certified madman reenacting his private purgatory. If true to life, onstage it was overdrawn and overdemanding of spectator empathy.

The festival's first prize was awarded where text, topic and performance reached equal heights. It was won by Nili Amar, a hitherto unknown actress whose Josephine (Dvora Raviv), a heart-wrenching confessional, won wide audience approval. *Naomi Doudai*

### Concerts

Italian tenor Roberto Inghino's voice sounds delightfully lyrical and soft when audible, which it was mostly in the latter half of Verdi's *Eight Romances* (originally with piano, orchestrated by Berio), in the JSO's Subscription Concert No. 3, conducted by Yoav Talmi.

Talmi has developed into a remarkably sensitive conductor who knows how to select just the right tempi, to elicit a wealth of instrumental tone colors, build up dramatic tension, and generally hold the orchestra at his finger tips. There was enjoyable freshness and drive in Verdi's *Force of Destiny* and Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, as well as in Bizet's *L'Arlésienne*, the program's brilliantly rendered piece of resistance. *Ury Eppstein*

The local premiere of a new Israeli organ work, *Lament for Yitzhak*, in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, was performed by its composer, the Russian-born organist Roman Krasnovski, at the Dormition Abbey. A solemn opening, melodious but accompanied by uneasy dissonances, leads to excitement and then to a resigned calm, conveying a sense of agitation and grief.

In the Dorian Tocatta and Fugue, Krasnovski displayed impressive command of the instrument and a thorough understanding of Bach's polyphonic style.

The Na'ama Choir, conducted by Pinna Imbar, captivated its audience with an exquisitely well-rounded sound, in a selection from Orlando di Lasso and Mendelssohn to Verdi, Gounod and Kodaly. The program's highlight, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, was fascinating. Olga Kertzman rendered the harp part with all its subtlety. The Israeli contribution to the choral program were three enchanting *Psalms* by Dov Carmel. *Ury Eppstein*

Oriz Orbach sailed through Copland's powerful clarinet concerto in a most evocative way at the Haifa Auditorium. Orbach does not play on the clarinet, she becomes one with it. Indeed she brought the house down with her sweet tone and faultless technique. Her performance reaffirmed her status as one of the most engaging and charismatic musicians of our generation.

The Haifa Symphony Orchestra under Christopher Wilkins gave a formidable reading of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. *Michael Ajenstadt*

Mendi Rodan led the IPO in a towering reading of Shostakovich's monumental 13th "Babi Yar" Symphony at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium. Replacing the indisposed Kurt Masur, Rodan, who has never before conducted this opus, managed to present a cohesive musical reading which was emotional without being melodramatic. Yevgeny Yevtushenko read some of his poems (in Russian), including the one which inspired this symphony. *Michael Ajenstadt*



## BUSINESS

in brief

### Israel On Line buys Neteor

Israel On Line, owned by the Ha'aretz group, has bought its competitor, Neteor, which was founded last December as a new incarnation of TV Tel. Neteor - owned by Bezeq, Elbit and Tadiran - has 2,000 subscribers to its Internet service and offers them the ability to purchase on-line tickets to entertainment and sports events; order rooms, tourism services and meals; buy software; and obtain legal and tax advice.

IOL, which has 13,000 subscribers, supplies news, data bases and on-line magazines. Following the deal, announced yesterday, IOL and Neteor services will now be integrated. In addition, the marketer of Packard-Bell/NEC computers in Israel signed a deal in which every computer of this brand sold here will have a program for linking up with IOL and three months of free connections.

Judy Siegel

### EU to deprive Burma of trade privileges

The European Union decided to strip Burma of special trading privileges in response to concerns over Rangoon's human rights record. EU diplomats said the decision was rubber stamped by a meeting of the 15-nation bloc's foreign ministers. The decision had been prepared in advance, following advice from the European Commission, which has investigated - it says - without Rangoon's cooperation - complaints from international and European non-governmental groups that Burma was using forced labor to boost its exports.

Under the decision Burma will no longer be eligible for so-called Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade benefits on agricultural and industrial products. EU-Burma trade totals 41 million European currency units (\$47.2 million) a year. About a quarter of that is subject to lucrative GSP trade breaks.

Reuters

### Xinhua to offer Chinese financial data

A financial data firm with investment from China's state-controlled Xinhua news agency will offer clients overseas financial information and data via satellite delivery, officials said. The Xinhua Financial Information Consultancy Ltd. will expand its service from May by adding overseas financial reports, such as information on grain, edible oils and metals, a company official said.

An advertisement in the *China Securities* newspaper yesterday announced the successful trial operation of the company's satellite transmission.

Reuters

## Bad real-estate loans damage Discount profits

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Bad loans to the real estate sector cast a shadow over Discount Bank's performance in the fourth quarter, as Israel's third largest bank reported that net profits dropped 85 percent to NIS 12.7 million from NIS 83.4m. during the same period in 1995.

For all of last year, net profits fell 12.6% to NIS 235.2m. from NIS 269.2m. in 1995. The bank's net return on equity dropped to 6% from 7.3%.

Income for the year was influenced by a significant increase in the provision for doubtful debts in the fourth quarter, mainly due to a stricter valuation of loans to borrowers in the construction sector.

Difficulties in calculating these provisions was the main reason behind the delay in the government's issue of 17% of Bank Discount's

shares to the public in the first quarter of 1997.

Discount Bank chairman Gideon Lahav said the bank will submit its prospectus to the Securities Authority for approval during the first week of April based on the annual report for 1996.

The provisions for doubtful debts reached NIS 453m. last year, an increase of 44.6% from NIS 314m. in 1995.

In the fourth quarter, provisions rose to NIS 148.39m. from NIS 108.65m.

Despite the high provisions, Lahav justified the bank's credit to the construction sector, which rose last year to NIS 7.84 billion from NIS 7.27b. in 1995. Provisions for doubtful debts to the sector rose to NIS 107.96m. from NIS 13.47m. in 1995.

The high provisions are not an

indication that the real estate sector is suffering from a crisis, said Lahav, explaining that they are due to certain mishaps in credit management.

"This does not mean there isn't a slowdown, in sales and in some cases a drop in prices, especially in the luxury housing market," he said.

The lower 1996 earnings were also due to a decline in the profitability of Israel Discount Bank of New York. The wholly-owned subsidiary ended the year with a net profit of \$24m. but as a result of the rate of the dollar lagging behind the Consumer Price Index, its contribution to the bank's net income was reduced to NIS 5.5m. from NIS 37.9m. in 1995.

Income from financing activities before provision for doubtful debts increased to NIS 2.3b. from NIS 2.26b. Operating and other income totaled NIS 934m., virtually

unchanged from the previous year. Operating and other expenses fell 1.2% to NIS 2.28b.

Bank Discount general manager Avraham Asheri grossed about NIS 100,000 per month last year.

Total credit to the public increased to NIS 44b. from NIS 40.9b. at the end of the previous year. Total deposits from the public rose 3.3% to NIS 66.9b. from NIS 64.7b. Total assets increased 3.6% to NIS 80.1b. from NIS 77.3b.

Lahav criticized Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's remarks that an annual growth rate of about 7% is not healthy for the economy in the long run.

"A similar growth rate of 5%-6% is not only possible but also needed in the economy," Lahav said. "We are an economy that absorbs aliyah and should have a growth rate that reflects this."

## Etgar Fund mulls buying Shemen stake

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Etgar Fund, managed by businessman Joseph Ciechanover, is negotiating to purchase controlling interest in Shemen Industries, a subsidiary of Koor Industries, a source close to the company said yesterday.

Etgar is expected to purchase Shemen in partnership with a US investor, most likely an acquaintance of Ciechanover from his days as president of PEC New York.

The \$100 million Etgar fund invests in a wide range of activities here, mainly in industrial and commercial companies. Since its establishment two years ago, the fund has made 19 investments.

Shemen is engaged in two main areas of activity: manufacturing and refining of oils and the production of care and hygiene products through its subsidiary Sod.

Shemen sold 50 percent of Sod to the German corporation Haniel last year. In addition to its ongoing operations, Shemen owns the land of the Etz Hazayit factory in Petah Tikva.

Koor currently controls 72% of Shemen's shares and intends to sell it as part of a strategy to gradually discontinue certain non-synergistic activities that do not contribute to profitability.

In recent years, Shemen's market share in the oils field has gradually decreased, mainly due to the closure of Etz Hazayit's activities. A Koor spokesman refused to comment on the negotiations.

## Life insurance firms suffer from fund redemptions

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Insurance companies suffered from premature redemptions of life insurance policies last year, mainly due to the public's realization of long-term savings, according to the companies' financial statements for 1996.

Last year was a record for the public's realization of long-term savings, especially provident funds. This trend also expressed itself in premature redemption of life insurance policies.

Migdal reported that premature redemptions of life insurance policies rose to NIS 560 million from NIS 405m. in 1995. Migdal is the largest insurance group in the market, with a market share of about 33%. Similarly, Hadar announced a 41% increase in premature redemptions last year.

"The company estimates this increase reflects the trend of realization of long-term savings," said

general manager Bar Cochva Ben-Gera in the management report attached to the company's financial reports.

According to Uzi Levi, head of the Life Insurance Companies Association and of Migdal, the premature redemptions are mainly due to the high interest rates on short-term savings which encouraged the public to transfer their money from long to shorter-term alternatives. The increase is also due to last year's stagnation in the capital market.

The insurance firms plan to introduce new financial instruments that will offer other investment alternatives in an attempt to prevent the public from withdrawing savings from the sector.

In the meantime, Menorah life insurance agents recently received letters from management asking them to give explanations for the increase in premature redemptions. The commissions which life

insurance agents receive on policies gradually decrease over time, reducing the agents' incentive to look after insurance holders interests.

Meanwhile, the Meitav Investments and Securities reported that provident and mutual funds held 14.3% of shares traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) at the end of 1996 compared with 17.9% a year earlier.

A study by the brokerage house showed both types of funds have been hit by redemptions since 1994. Investors pulled NIS 18.6 billion out of mutual funds and NIS 17.4b. from provident funds in the last three years. Analysts attributed this to a sluggish stock market and relatively high interest rates offered by banks for shchel deposits.

At the end of 1996, provident funds held 9.5% of total market capitalization compared with 11% a year earlier, and mutual fund holdings in TASE fell to 4.8% from 6.9%, the study showed.

## COMPANY RESULTS

### Israel Chemicals net sharply up in '96

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel Chemicals, controlled by the Eisenberg Group, completed the year with a net profit of NIS 225.8 million, compared with a net loss of NIS 81.1m. in 1995.

The country's largest chemical group and one of the leading exporters wound up the fourth quarter with a profit of NIS 41m., compared with a net loss of NIS 31.2m. in the corresponding period last year.

ICL president and CEO Igal

Dimant said a significant improvement in the group's performance was due to the growth in sales, company product price rises, effect of the previous year's efficiency improvement plan and investments in new companies. At the end of 1995/start of 1996, ICL purchased the US-based Clearon and the German Ladenburg.

The higher earnings are also due to a significant improvement in Fertilizers and Chemicals. The subsidiary broke even last year

after a loss of NIS 201m. in 1995.

The Eisenberg Group, which has first right of refusal on the purchase of another 17% of ICL's shares from the government, is currently considering the investment. Eisenberg and Israel Corp. acquired 24.9% of the group about two years ago as part of the government's privatization program.

Sales grew 17.9% last year to NIS 5.3 billion. Excluding the contribution of Clearon and Ladenburg, sales grew 2.7%.

Sales in the fourth quarter rose 12.2% to NIS 1.28b.

ICL is currently in the midst of an investment plan, which is expected to reach \$2b. by the end of the decade. The fruits of these investments have not yet been reflected in the company's results, said ICL. Total investments rose to NIS 1.929b. from NIS 1.749b. in 1995.

Operating earnings totaled NIS 550.6 billion, up 52.4% from the previous year. The results include one-time expenses of NIS 42.9m., before tax, deriving from ICL's reorganization program in Israel and abroad. Fourth quarter operating profits increased 54.9% to NIS 122.9m.

## World bank to offer Jordan \$1 billion in loans over five years

AMMAN (Reuters) - The World Bank could extend to Jordan

around \$1 billion during a new five-year economic reform phase to start next year, a bank official said this week.

"We have said to the government that we are ready to support the continuation of the reform program within the framework of the next five-year plan," Kamal Dervis, World Bank vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, told reporters.

He said it was too early to give details before the new government outlines Jordan's next structural adjustment program, but a World Bank official said most of the assistance would be in the form of loans.

Jordan is formulating a five-year reform plan to start after a three-year IMF reform program, which saw some progress toward liberalizing the economy, ends this year.

The 1995-1997 reform program follows a successful monetary and fiscal stabilization program under IMF guidance that Jordan went through since an economic crisis in 1989 that wiped out its reserves.

Dervis, who met senior Jordanian officials during a regional tour, said the World Bank "could have for Jordan a substantial amount of financial backing" to the tune of \$1b. for the government's coming five-year reform phase.

"I can give a very rough figure of \$1b. that could be available

from the World Bank for the next five-year period," Dervis said.

Dervis said that the World Bank, which "was committed to continuing support for the overall reform process," would allocate a substantial part of its aid to sectoral projects. But the assistance in transport, power, health, education and water schemes still needed to be formulated with the government to set both priorities and allocations.

Dervis said the World Bank agreed with the government's assessment that an annual growth rate of between six and seven per-

cent was needed to ensure that reforms filter to ordinary Jordanians by the end of the decade. Jordan has had an average 5% growth in the last few years.

Many businessmen and economists privately criticize the government for the slow pace of reform, especially toward privatization, which successive governments have committed themselves to but which has so far been piecemeal.

"Now that Jordan has stabilized, you have put the house in order, now is the time to generate results for the people," he added.

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If you are about to construct a home in one of the hundreds of moshavim in Israel, it is worth hurrying to the Agricultural Department of the local offices of the Israel Land Administration in your area to check the up-to-date price evaluation which will be coming into effect.

If the new tariff due to come into effect on April 1, 1997 is higher than the present one, the Israel Land Administration will enable you to register up to March 31, 1997, with all required documents, so as to ensure that your accounting with the Land Administration will be according to the current tariff - even if it is effected after April 1, 1997.

So if you are about to construct a home in a moshav - hurry to the offices of the Land Administration and check the up-dated tariff. This is certainly likely to be worth your while!

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## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

### Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (24.3.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.6245	3.6930			3.671
U.S. dollar	3.9401	3.9840	3.26	3.45	3.5720
German mark	1.6754	2.0078	1.94	2.04	1.9936
Pound sterling	5.5730	5.4697	5.28	5.54	5.3750
French franc	0.5854	0.5849	0.57	0.61	0.5900
Japanese yen (100)	2.7163	2.7602	2.66	2.80	2.7358
Dutch florin	1.7653	1.7637	1.72	1.81	1.7712
Swiss franc	2.2354	2.2225	2.24	2.36	2.3128
Swedish krona	0.4370	0.4441	0.42	0.46	0.4408
Norwegian krone	0.4885	0.5088	0.48	0.52	0.5004
Denish krone	0.6183	0.6287	0.60	0.64	0.6229
Finnish mark	0.5616	0.5725	0.55	0.59	0.5656
Canadian dollar	2.4292	2.4574	2.38	2.61	2.4476
Australian dollar	2.6306	2.6735	2.58	2.72	2.6435
S. African rand	0.7531	0.7693	0.68	0.77	0.7617
Belgian franc (10)	0.5772	0.5872	0.54	0.59	0.5663
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5055	2.5518	2.75	2.80	2.8327
Italian lire (1000)	1.9729	2.0048	1.83	2.04	1.8964
Jordanian dinar	4.6500	4.9700	4.45	4.97	4.7882
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0300	0.95	1.08	1.0118
EU	3.8339	3.8558			3.8655
Irish punt	5.2442	5.3288	5.15	5.41	5.2775
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3271	2.3847	2.28	2.40	2.3501

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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מכירת הארץ







## SPORTS

in brief

## Grobbelaar retrial to start June 4

LONDON (AP) — Bruce Grobbelaar and two other former Premier League players will be retried on match-fixing charges starting June 4 at Winchester Crown Court. Officials announced yesterday.

The first trial, which lasted seven weeks, ended on March 4 when the Winchester jury failed to reach verdicts in the case after two days of deliberations.

The defendants are former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Grobbelaar, ex-Wimbledon and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu, former Wimbledon goalie Hans Segers and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim.

All four were accused of conspiring to give or receive cash to influence the results of soccer games in the English Premier League on behalf of an Asian betting syndicate. They all pleaded innocent.

## ICC to get Indian president

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — India will head the International Cricket Council (ICC) after the retirement of chairman Sir Clyde Walcott in June, a senior ICC official said yesterday.

David Richards, chief executive of the ICC, said India had until May 31 to name their choice for the new post of ICC president which will replace the chairman's job after Barbadian Walcott retires.

Richards said India were unanimously elected to provide the president until June 2000 at a special general meeting of the ICC on Sunday.

Australia were elected as successors to India after 2000. The Australian candidate would serve as vice-president from June 1999, before taking over as president, Richards said.

The president's post was part of a new governing structure aimed at improving the management and development of international cricket, Richards said.

## United leave opponents to scrap for second place

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United's quest for another league title appeared to be drawing towards a successful close yesterday but the scrap for England's second European Cup place was only just beginning.

United's efficient if unspectacular 2-0 win at Everton on Saturday left them six points clear of the field with just seven league matches remaining.

They face the distraction of a European Cup semifinal next month but even their many die-hard and envious opponents find it difficult to envisage Alex Ferguson's manning side letting a lead like that slip.

United's single remaining challenge, as Ferguson acknowledged after Saturday's match, is the possibility of late season fatigue.

"We do need to extend the season," he said. "It is totally unfair that we may be asked to play four demanding games in eight days, in May. I distinctly remember some bright spark saying this sort of thing

would never be allowed in the premier league. Well, it's happening." Ferguson need hardly worry though. The way the season is unravelling, United could be crowned champions before the end of April.

Liverpool and Arsenal were due to meet at Highbury late last night, effectively to decide which of them will keep the defending champions on their toes in the title run-in.

Both sides have 57 points to United's 63. The onus is on Liverpool, with a game in hand and a home fixture against United next month, to make a final assault on their arch-rivals' title.

Fourth-placed Newcastle dropped further behind in the race for a lucrative place in the European Cup when they drew 1-1 at Wimbledon on Sunday.

And while manager Kenny Dalglish proclaimed afterwards: "We are still realistic title contenders," a place in the UEFA Cup now looks a more realistic prospect for the Tynesiders.

## Bolivia-Jamaica friendly turns into farce

ORURO, Bolivia (Reuters) — A friendly soccer international between Bolivia and Jamaica turned into a farce on Sunday as the Jamaicans, unable to cope with the altitude, began clowning around on the field.

On several occasions, Jamaican players burst out laughing as Bolivian players, unaffected by the thin air, sped past them. Some Jamaican players also collapsed to the ground during the match, pretending they had fainted.

When the Jamaicans got near the ball they simply whacked it as far as they possibly could, in any direction.

They also vented their frustration on their opponents, committing a number of bad challenges, and finished with nine men after Omandi Lowe and Ian Goodison were sent off during the second half.

The match was played at 3,700 meters (12,139 feet) above sea level in the mining town of Oruro, where the rarified air makes simply walking a strenuous exercise for the unacclimatized.

Bolivia won the match 6-0 despite easing up in the face of Jamaican indifference.

The serious football stopped in the 13th minute when Oscar Sanchez put Bolivia in front. Sanchez, Juan Bertho Suarez and Mauro Blanco each scored two goals apiece.

Bolivia coach Antonio Lopez was livid. "We had 15 minutes of football and the rest was all crap," he fumed.

Jamaica are in the final stage of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournaments and drew their first match 0-0 at home to the United States.

## Brumer unfit for Luxembourg

By DEREK FATTAL

National soccer coach Shlomo Scharf announced his squad yesterday for Monday's critical World Cup qualifying group 5 match away to Luxembourg. The notable omission is Gadi Brumer who failed a fitness test yesterday, as a result of an ankle infection.

On a more optimistic note, Southampton midfielder Eyal Berkovic arrived in the country yesterday fully aware that he will have to impress in the training sessions in order to win a place in the opening line up. Celta Vigo's Haim Revivo is due to join squad-mates tomorrow.

Scharf shrugged off Brumer's absence from the squad when talking to reporters yesterday.

"Gadi's injury is not a problem for us. We have won and we have lost matches without him. I am hopeful that we can rely on the men we have who are fully fit," said Scharf.

"It's been some time since the players based abroad have played together, so it will be a good opportunity to see them work together in training," Scharf continued referring to Ronnie Rosenthal, Berkovic and Revivo.

Scharf confirmed he is preparing the squad with just one objective in mind. "We have no option but to win against Luxembourg."

The squad will have to achieve that aim without the services of Alon Hazan and Avi Nizni, who will both miss the match due to their accumulation of yellow cards in previous qualifying matches.

Although first-choice captain Tal Banin was called up to the training camp, the Hapoel Haifa star is still unsure of his position as he returns to the squad straight from the injury list, and without a first class match under his belt for weeks. Banin's performance in training will determine whether Scharf can afford to use him in his starting line up.

Guy Yitzhak and Shai Holtzman — who each had a short burst as substitute in the recent friendly against Sweden have been overlooked this time around, but Moshe Giam and Nir Klinger are retained, as is Bnei Yehuda's in-form Alon Mizrahi. Scharf has called up Maccabi Haifa's Alon Harazi in preference to Shmuel Levy, due to the Harazi's ability to play in a number of positions.

Five Betar Jerusalem players have been retained — Eli Ohana, Itzik Zohar, Yossi Abukis, David Amsalem and Assi Dougl, together with goalkeepers Rafi Cohen and Golan Malul, defenders Felix Halfon and Amir Shlehal, and midfielder Ran Ben Shimon.

Israel's youth team, due to go head-to-head in the first leg of their European Championship qualifier tomorrow against Yugoslavia held training sessions in sub-zero temperatures yesterday morning and afternoon. If the Israelis manage to beat the Yugoslavs over the two-leg qualifiers they will earn a ticket to the finals of the competition.



FURNITURE IN DISARRAY — Australia's Jason Gillespie clean bowled by Allan Donald for 0 as South Africa forged an eight-wicket victory in the third Test yesterday.

## Cronje laments South Africa's lost opportunities despite winning final Test

PRETORIA (Reuters) — South African captain Hansie Cronje claimed his side was not far behind Australia after recording a consolation eight-wicket victory in the third and final Test at Centurion Park yesterday.

South Africa, who had already lost the first two Tests, dismissed Australia for 185 in their second innings and knocked off the 29 they needed to win for the loss of openers Gary Kirsten and Adam Bacher. "One day when we sit back in our armchairs we will kick ourselves for what happened in the second Test at Port Elizabeth. The series was a lot closer than people made out," Cronje said.

Having been heavily beaten in the first Test in Johannesburg, South Africa lost a low-scoring second Test at Port Elizabeth after holding a lead of 188 in their second innings with 10 wickets in hand.

Australia won that match by two wickets to clinch the series 2-0.

Their consolation win came quickly on Monday thanks to some devastating fast bowling from Allan Donald, who took five for 36. It was his first five-wicket haul against Australia and the eighth in his 33-Test career.

His match figures of eight for 96 were enough to give him the man-of-the-match award and it meant that, in the eight Tests he has played this season, five against India and three against Australia, he has taken 41 wickets.

"This year has been my best year in all the cricket I have played," Donald said. "I don't think I have ever bowled as consistently well." Donald took three wickets as Australia, who resumed on 96 for four on the fourth day, were able to add only 89 runs to the overnight total.

Only Steve Waugh, who added to his first innings 67 with a batting 60 not out, provided any durable resistance. His aggregate of 313 runs at an average of 78.3 was enough to earn him the man-of-the-series award.

Donald bowled Greg Blewett for a duck in the first over and by lunch the Australians had also lost Michael Bevan and Ian Healy.

Healy, adjudged to have been caught down the leg side, was unhappy with the decision and later

collected a suspension which rules him out of the first two one-day internationals.

The tail was wrapped up in the first seven overs after lunch — to leave South Africa needing 29 for victory.

"After this Test match we certainly feel that we can beat Australia, although they may have relaxed going into the match with a 2-0 lead," said Cronje.

"But we showed we can play well against them." It was the second successive time Australia had lost the last Test after winning a series. They recently lost inside three days to the West Indies in Perth in a series in which they already held a 3-1 lead.

"It's a good habit and a bad habit," joked their skipper Mark Taylor.

"I hope we keep doing it for the next five or six series. If we can have the series in the bag before the last Test I will give that one up every time."

The sides now meet in a seven match one-day international series which begins in East London on Saturday.

Australia, 1st Innings 227

South Africa, 1st Innings 384

Australia, 2nd Innings

Overnight 96 for four

M. TAYLOR c Richardson b Donald

M. HAYDEN b b Schultz

M. ELLIOTT b Donald

M. WAUGH b Symcox

S. BLEWETT b Donald

S. BLEWETT b Donald

M. BEVAN b Symcox

I. HEALY c Richardson b Schultz

I. WAUGH b b Donald

J. GILLESPIE b Donald

G. McGATH b Klesner

Extras (22, 88, 14th, 4th)

TOTAL (all out)

Fall of wickets: 5, 10, 25, 94, 96, 106, 131, 164, 184, 185

Bowling: Allan Donald 16-6-36-5 (2w), Brett Schultz 17-4-39-2 (2w), Lance Klesner 14-4-40-1 (1w), Pat Symcox 15-5-49-2, Jacques Kallis 5-1-19-0 (0w).

Batting time: 327 minutes. Overs: 73.4.

South Africa, 2nd Innings

G. KRISTEN c Taylor b Blewett

A. BACHER c Elliot b Gillespie

B. MCGILLAN not out

D. CULLINAN not out

Extras (17b, 1w)

TOTAL (two 2 wickets)

Fall of wickets: 11, 15

Bowling: Jason Gillespie 3-4-19-1 (1w), Greg Blewett 3-0-13-1 (1w).

Batting time: 30 minutes. Overs: 5.4

Result: South Africa won by eight wickets.

Man of the match: Allan Donald (South Africa)

Man of the series: Steve Waugh (Australia)

First Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Second Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Third Test in Centurion: Australia won by eight wickets.

Fourth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Fifth Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Sixth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Seventh Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Eighth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Ninth Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Tenth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Eleventh Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Twelfth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Thirteenth Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Fourteenth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Fifteenth Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Sixteenth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Seventeenth Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Eighteenth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Nineteenth Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Twentieth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Twenty-first Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Twenty-second Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Twenty-third Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Twenty-fourth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Twenty-fifth Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Twenty-sixth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Twenty-seventh Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Twenty-eighth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Twenty-ninth Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Thirtieth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Thirty-first Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Thirty-second Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Thirty-third Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Thirty-fourth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Thirty-fifth Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Thirty-sixth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Thirty-seventh Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Thirty-eighth Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Thirty-ninth Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Fortieth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Forty-first Test in Cape Town: Australia won by 10 wickets.

Forty-second Test in Johannesburg: Australia won by an innings and 136 runs.

Forty-third Test in Port Elizabeth: Australia won by two wickets.

Forty-fourth Test in Durban: Australia won by 10 wickets.

## Dallas win streak at 8

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mike Modano had a goal and an assist while his team was shorthanded, and Jere Lehtinen scored twice, as the Dallas Stars extended their unbeaten streak to a season-high eight games, beating the St. Louis Blues 4-1 in NHL action on Sunday.

The streak is the Stars' longest since 1993-94 when they were unbeaten in 11 straight.

Blackhawks 5, Red Wings 3

In Chicago, the Blackhawks scored on three of their first four shots on goal in their first period and held on for a 5-3 win over Detroit.

Jim Cummins, Eric Daze and Alexei Zhamnov connected on consecutive shots during a 1:56 span to chase Detroit starting goaltender Mike Vernon. Sergei Krivonozhko also scored twice for Chicago.

Ducks 4, Oilers 1

In Edmonton, Alberta, Teemu Selanne had a goal and an assist while playing less than half the game as the Anaheim Mighty Ducks defeated the Edmonton Oilers 4-1.

Anaheim's fourth win over Edmonton this season pulled them into a fifth-place tie in the Western Conference with the Oilers.

Flyers 2, Avalanche 0

In Philadelphia, Ron Hextall stopped 19 shots as the Philadelphia Flyers, without captain Eric Lindros, defeated the Colorado Avalanche 2-0 in a battle between the Eastern and Western Conference leaders.

Hextall gained his fourth shutout of the season and 19th of his career.

Atlantic Division

W L T Pts GF GA

x-Philadelphia 41 21 11 53 247-182

x-New Jersey 39 20 13 51 203-181

Florida 33 24 17 83 207-178

Washington 29 36 8 77 181-200

Tampa Bay 28 37 7 83 194-228

N.Y. Islanders 25 36 11 81 202-215

Northwest Division

W L T Pts GF GA

x-Buffalo 38 23 11 87 216-182

Pittsburgh 34 31 7 75 251-242

Montreal 26 33 14 86 221-222

Hartford 27 35 10 84 194-225

Toronto 24 33 15 83 210-212

Boston 24 40 9 57 211-263

Western Division

W L T Pts GF GA

x-Dallas 44 23 6 94 228-179

Detroit 34 23 15 83 223-174

Phoenix 36 34 5 75 213-222

St. Louis 31 33 9 71 214-223

San Jose 28 41 6 58 210-233

Pacific Division

W L T Pts GF GA

x-Columbus 45 19 9 99 248-178

San Jose 38 23 13 83 226-220

Edmonton 31 31 11 73 215-203

Calgary 31 35 8 70 198-208

Vancouver 30 39 4 84 224-248

Los Angeles 28 38 4 61 192-240

San Jose 24 41 7 55 182-235

x-clinched playoff spot

## Israel lose to Kenya in Malaysia ICC Trophy tourney

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Israel made its first sporting appearance in Asia since 1974 as its cricket team lost its opening match of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy to Kenya yesterday.

It is the first-ever visit to Malaysia by an Israeli sporting team, or any official delegation. Predominantly Moslem Malaysia has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

"We've had a tremendous reception from the Malaysians and the

organizer and we feel very excited and happy to be here," team manager Stanley Perlman told the national news agency Bernama.

The competition features 22 teams and acts as a qualifying tournament for the next World Cup which will be held in England in 1999.

Kenya, who recorded a famous win over the West Indies in the last World Cup, beat Israel by five wickets.

The Malaysian Cricket

Association (MCA) said it was the first visit of an Israeli sporting team to Asia since the Asian Games in Tehran in 1974, when Israel and other Middle East countries were considered part of the Asian sporting scene.

Israel's inclusion was a condition for Malaysia hosting the ICC Trophy tournament. "We actually intend to show Israel and the Israelis that the different religious communities (in Malaysia) can live together without friction," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was quoted as saying by Bernama on Sunday.

He denied, however, that there had been a change in relations between the two countries.

He said he had written to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying "as long as he (Netanyahu) did not abide by the decision of the peace treaty, we will not have diplomatic relations."

These games will be played this afternoon at the Ra'anana bowling green.

The northern pairs competition final will be played on Friday in Netanya. In an all-Ra'anana final, Joe Goldberg and Ivan Kantor will play the father-son pair of Gordon and Colin Silberstein.

While the ladies final will match up Maureen Hershowitz and Isabel Myers against Gina Eting and Ziva Iron (replacing Haya Prager) of Savoyon.

Geoff The Geri family, Mari, Malca and Oren, together with fourth Len Landes, dominated the Caesar's golf club with 85 stableford points.

Three points behind were Patrick Hamel, Michael and Nili Shavit and Dan Levron. Exceeding overseas was Kobi Hachson of Or Akiva who shot a 77-73 to make the cut in the Portuguese amateur match-play championships after the first two days of play.

Playing a thrilling match against Mikko Manerus of Finland, Hachson lost on the final hole.

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Playing a thrilling match against Mikko Manerus of Finland, Hachson lost on the final hole.

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Reuma Weizman (left) meets with Lisa Midan, the grandmother of Dr. Michal Avrahami, who was killed in Friday's terror attack. The president's wife visited the families of the three victims of Friday's bombing in Tel Aviv, and apologized that President Ezer Weizman was not able to come because of his broken hip.

## Cafe owner who once hired suicide bomber compensated for improper summons

The cafe owner who had illegally employed Friday's suicide bomber last month, and three other restaurant owners who had hired Palestinians without permits, were each awarded NIS 1,000 by the Rehovot Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Judge Avital Beit-Ner awarded them the money as compensation for the irregular summonses they received.

The four restaurateurs, who were ordered to appear in court yesterday morning, did not receive complete, signed summonses and indictments 48 hours before the hearing, as required by law.

Beit-Ner also extended the remands of the 23 Palestinians arrested over the weekend for working in Rishon LeZion restaurants without permits to work in Israel. The workers' lawyers

requested more time to study the case, so Beit-Ner postponed the workers' hearings to tomorrow and Thursday and extended their remands by three days.

In response to the arrests, Rishon LeZion Mayor Meir Nitzan yesterday convened some 70 restaurant owners to warn them against hiring Palestinians who do not have proper permits.

## Hemdat to US Jews:

# Give groups \$150 million

By HAIM SHAPIRO and MARILYN HENRY

Hemdat, the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion, and Culture in Israel, yesterday called upon the Jewish federations in the US to allocate \$150 million for new Conservative and Reform schools and synagogues in Israel.

Hemdat, which represents a coalition including the Conservative and Reform movements, secular organizations, and such groups as archeologists, said this should be a reply to the government's Friday decision to present the proposed conversion law in the Knesset.

As formulated by the government, the law would restrict official recognition for conversions carried out in Israel to those approved by the Chief Rabbinate.

Hemdat chairman Prof. Hillel Shulav called on the leaders of the federations and the United Israel Appeal in the US to allocate the funds for the establishment of 100 new Conservative and Reform synagogues and schools in Israel.

He was echoing a circular sent to American Jewish leaders by Rabbi Isaac Schorsch, chancellor of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Schorsch called for allocations of \$100m. to \$150m. "to change the religious landscape in Israel by

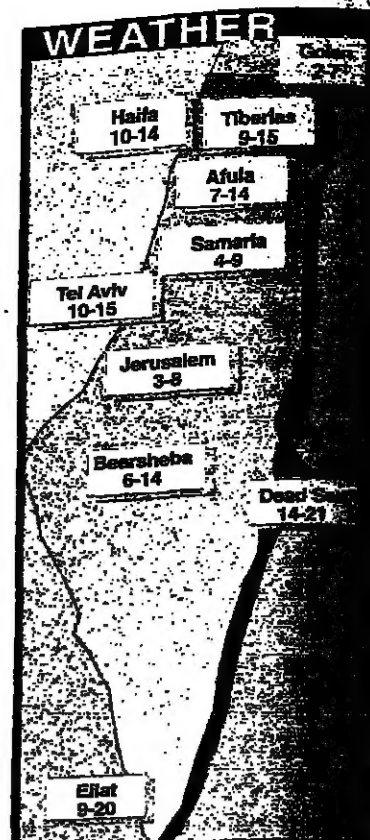
massive funding from America."

Schorsch's proposal would eviscerate the United Jewish Appeal's overseas allocations, which were \$307.1 million last year, and would dwarf the \$69.6m. UJA allocated to the Joint Distribution Committee. The United Israel Appeal received more than \$220m. on behalf of the Jewish Agency, according to UJA.

UJA national chairman Richard Wexler, has called Schorsch's proposal "repulsive." "The whole concept of transferring money from aliya and absorption, from caring for Jews most in need, taking food from the mouths of Jewish children to feed the Reform and Conservative movements is heresy," Wexler said yesterday in a telephone interview from Chicago.

The Reform and Conservative movements' Israeli institutions and programs currently receive about \$1m. each a year from the Jewish Agency. "This is far more than the movements are sending themselves to Israel" for their own programs, Wexler said.

In a related development, the Conservative rabbis of Santiago, Chile, are to boycott the opening of the Keren Hayesod campaign there tomorrow night, because MK Haim Ramon (Labor) is to be the main speaker. Rabbi Shmuel Steinhandler, the spiritual leader of Temple Or Shalom in Santiago and president of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly in Latin America, said that the boycott is intended to show their unhappiness with statements made by Ramon, while he was interior minister, favoring recognition of only Orthodox conversions in Israel.



## AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	F	HIGH	F	Cloud
Amsterdam	08	43	09	48	cloudy
Berlin	-02	28	03	33	clear
Buenos Aires	15	59	23	73	clear
Cairo	09	48	18	65	partly
Chicago	25	77	30	86	cloudy
Copenhagen	04	39	04	39	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	43	12	54	cloudy
Helsinki	-12	10	-03	27	clear
Hong Kong	16	61	18	64	clear
Jerusalem	03	37	08	46	clear
London	07	45	11	52	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	55	17	63	partly
Madrid	08	46	13	55	clear
Manila	-15	05	-06	31	clear
Moscow	-13	9	-04	25	clear
New York	01	34	04	39	clear
Paris	08	46	13	55	cloudy
Rome	-10	14	03	37	cloudy
Sydney	15	59	23	73	clear

## Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, nine of hearts, king of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

## Lubotsky proposes compromise on conversion bill

By LIAT COLLINS

The religious factions in the Knesset and representatives of non-Orthodox streams of Judaism are expected to discuss a possible compromise on the proposed conversion law in different meetings this week.

Under a compromise MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) is proposing, all the High Court petitions on Reform conversions in Israel would be withdrawn in return for which the religious parties would stop pressing for the conversion bill to be passed.

The Reform Movement's Uri Regev said he hopes the government would not try to pass the law in the Knesset until all contacts over the compromise suggestion had been explored.

Lubotsky has been discussing different options since being appointed two weeks ago by coalition chairman Michael Eitan to be responsible for the implementation of the religious clauses in the coalition agreement.

He concedes that his proposal is "sweeping under the carpet rather than a real solution," but said it could work. He noted that Interior Minister Eli Shais (Shas) had said a couple of months ago that he is considering canceling the clause stating that one's religion be listed in identity cards, which

would reduce the struggle in the ministry over the registry of Reform conversions.

"It's a pity to cause a rift with US Jewry over an issue which might not exist in another year," Lubotsky said.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) said the proposal is "unrealistic."

Masorti Movement spokeswoman Einat Ramon told Ha'aretz yesterday that the movement's representatives would hear the proposal with an open mind, but added, "It's not relevant because we will not give up on full recognition for all streams."

Yisrael Ba'aliya has announced it will not support the conversion law if it comes up in the Knesset in its broader form, which requires rabbinic approval in Israel for Reform conversions performed abroad.

Its statement follows reports that the religious parties intend raising the more sweeping version of the bill in the Knesset Law Committee. Under the version approved by the government, conversions performed in Israel would require approval of the chief rabbinate, but those performed abroad would not.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called on the heads of the Reform and Conservative Movements to boycott politicians who support the conversion law.

## Har-Shefi pleads not guilty

By RAINE MARCUS

Margalit Har-Shefi, the Bar-Ilan University student charged with failing to prevent the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in November 1995, pleaded not guilty on two counts in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. She also is charged with helping to supply arms to assassin Yigal Amir by showing him an arms warehouse in the settlement of Beit El, where she lives.

Har-Shefi, who was originally arrested in November 1995 and

then released on bail, was charged three weeks ago. The court allowed her time to find a defense attorney and to examine evidence before her plea hearing. However, despite negotiations with various lawyers, no attorney yet seems to be prepared to represent her.

Har-Shefi was a friend of Yigal Amir, who allegedly told her of his plans to kill Rabin. Testifying for the defense in the Amir trial, Har-Shefi told the court that she did not take his threats seriously. Her trial will start in six weeks time.

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